

MORIEL

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QUARTERLY

Trees of Righteousness Part One

“For you will go out with joy And be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you,
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”

Isaiah 55:12





MORIEL
MINISTRIES

God is my Teacher

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

AMERICAN NEWS	3
AUSTRALIA UPDATE.....	3
TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS PART ONE.....	4
SANDY SIMPSON UPDATE.....	11
CHINA UPDATE.....	13
ISRAEL UPDATE.....	15
NEW ZEALAND UPDATE.....	18
TISSONS' MISSIONARY UPDATE....	19
PHILIPPINES UPDATE.....	20
SOUTH AFRICA UPDATE.....	21
THAILAND UPDATE.....	22
TIBET: PART TWO.....	24

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Thank You from Jacob

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

It is with profound gratitude to the Lord, and to you that we extend our thanks for your most gracious support to the work that the Lord has called us to in these troubled days, yet days of hope and promise as we await His return.

From our missions for impoverished children in Africa, India, and the Philippines to our Gospel efforts in Israel and Japan, to our work with the underground church (in countries best not named), via your prayers and generosity, you are a vital part of all we do.

Our branches in New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Canada, the UK, the USA, the Netherlands, South Africa, Israel, and our missionaries in the Third World, our reps in Hong Kong, Denmark, and South East Asia unite in expressing our thankful recognition for being used of Jesus to make it possible as we prepare the way for His Coming.

Most view Moriel through the eyes of the internet, BE ALERT, and Moriel TV as well as through RTN TV. Much of this work is selflessly done by volunteers, whom we cannot thank enough - but neither can we adequately thank you.

As with all ministries, we do require support. However, we desperately require your prayers. May the Lord truly bless you and yours and reward you richly for your help and kindness.

We are sincerely Grateful.

In Him Who Saved Us & Called Us,

James Jacob Prasch

Assistant Director, on behalf of our Senior Director 'The Lord Jesus'

Your 2020 Tax Receipts

We have mailed out all the YTD Tax receipts for America and emailed all PayPal contributions receipts. If you did not get yours please contact the American Office and we get that to you ASAP. If do not agree with the total, or even misplace it in the scramble to get your taxes together, please contact me at morieldavid@yahoo.com or call the office at 412 321 6154

MORIEL AUSTRALIA UPDATE

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

There has been an ongoing discussion in the Moriel Australia office, regarding how many enquiries we receive, from believers seeking churches that preach and teach the truth, rightly dividing of the Word of God. Sadly, there seems to be a lack thereof. Whilst we understand that nobody is perfect, God does continue to use imperfect men for His glory. These (too few) men are courageous, who are willing to step up and speak up, even when there is much opposition. We need to pray that the Lord calls more Godly men forward for His service. Instead of pointing out flaws and criticising imperfections, we want to encourage one another to pray more earnestly for those standing for Biblical truth. Buddy Davis wrote a song (circa 1998) called "Lord We Need More Godly Men". We wanted to share this as a reminder to us all to pray, pray for our pastors, church elders, teachers, missionaries, fathers, brothers, husbands, sons, brothers-in-law, sons-in-law, uncles, grandfathers, cousins, friends etc. etc.....because....."Lord We Need More Godly Men".

Lord, we need more Godly men, who'll stand on Your Word 'til the end.

Men who are strong, men that won't bend, Lord, we need more Godly men.

Lord, we need more Godly men, who aren't afraid to call sin sin.

'Cause the world is desperately looking for them. Lord, we need more Godly men.

Lord, we need more husbands in love with their wives, and daddies to cherish their kids,

Grandpa's and Uncles who'll set an example, and tell them who Jesus is.

May the world see our eyes in the Bible, and our knees bent in prayer again.

From the senior preacher, to the high school teacher, Lord, we need more Godly men.

Lord, we need more heroes to praise the name of Christ, instead of using it in vain.

Men who'll place Jesus at the head of their homes, like the family that You ordained.

May the world see us as Your disciples, reaching out to the world as a friend.

From the factory worker, to the Wall Street broker, Lord, we need more Godly men.

Buddy Davis 1998 – Answers in Genesis . CD Titled "By Him All Things Were Created"

May the Lord find us faithful when He returns,

Aghi & Mila





Turn to Deuteronomy 20:19-20.

When you besiege a city a long time, to make war against it in order to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees by swinging an axe against them; for you may eat from them, and you shall not cut down them. For is the tree of the field a man, that it should be besieged by you? Only the trees which you know are not fruit trees you shall destroy and cut down. You may construct siegeworks against the city that is making war with you until it falls.

One of the things that we always try to do is understand the hermeneutics, the Jewish way of interpreting the scripture, which was used in the time of Jesus by the early Christians. Try to remember the writers of the New Testament were all Jews and their worldview in their approach to scripture was framed by that identity. Unfortunately, most of the Gentile church -- most of it, not all of it -- but most of it has lost sight of that very basic fact and as a result, they are misreading scripture -- misreading it not necessarily in the sense that they are saying things that are wrong, but misreading it in the sense they are leaving things out that are right.

In other words, these true believers tend to be right in what they say, but they tend to be wrong in the things they leave out. This is something we have explained before, something which Saint Paul would have used very often, something he would have learned from his tutor, Rabbi Gamaliel, who we read about in the Book of Acts in Chapter 5, (0:01:37.7).

Binyan av mi shnay ketuvim:

Binyan is a modern Hebrew word for "a building." It is the ancient Hebrew word for "a constructed edifice" or anything constructed.

av mi shnay -- "from two".

Ketuvim -- "writings".

You build your case from two writings; you look for cognate relationships between texts. Even though the texts might not necessarily appear to be talking about the same thing to a Western mind, if it has the same language or the same words in common, it is talking about the same thing. Well, what we see here is "fruit", "trees", "axe", and "besiege." Hence, other texts in scripture that will have those same words will be talking about the same thing. They will be doctrinally and theologically akin. The argument is built from two texts. Even though it might not seem to Western mind that it is talking about the same thing, it is.

So, we ask ourselves the question: What other passages deal with fruit, trees, axes, and besieging? If you were simply reading Deuteronomy on its own, you would say it was instructions for military warfare for how to make war against the city. Well, that is true, but this is the second of the Midot of Rabbi Hillel that Saint Paul would have used. Binyan av mi shnay ketuvim.

Turn with me, please, to the Gospel of Saint Luke 3:8.

Yochanan haMatbil, John the Baptist, is preaching. And he is warning the religious entablement. And he says, *Therefore, bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance.*

The fruit of repentance. If someone is really repentant, there will be fruit of repentance. Essentially, if you see somebody who says the Sinner's Prayer or puts their hands up at an evangelistic meeting or comes forward and you do not see a change in their life, they were not really saved. If somebody is really saved, there will be a repentance in their life. You will stop gambling. You will stop being an alcoholic. You will stop being a drug addict. (I was a cocaine addict when I was a teenager.) There will be a radical change in somebody's life. If there is not fruit of repentance, it is the same old tree.

We tend to think of repentance as being contrite, simply having some sense of a regret for what we did. That is not the real meaning of repentance. Repentance may include it, but that is purely emotional. If somebody is really repentant, they will turn -- will be metanoia/μετάνοια. They will turn from sin towards God, teshuvah in Hebrew. This is one of the problems of the Purpose-Driven "Lie." Rick Warren teaches against this. He directly and literally teaches against biblical repentance. It is no wonder he has flip flopped on the homosexual issue on Larry King Live by apologizing to the homosexual community for giving the impression he was against same-sex marriage. Well, that is Rick Warren. He does not believe in repentance. Of course, he has been appointed to Tony Blair's board of religious advisors to divide Israel with a whole lot of other wacky people.

Secondly, Fruit of Souls.

Third, most important is the fruit of the Spirit. If somebody is bearing the fruit of the Spirit, it is the diving nature -- the divine nature manifested in Christ. That is what grows on the Tree of Life. It is the divine nature manifested in Christ. Adam and Eve chose to eat that fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

John the Baptist, Yochanan haMatbil says,

Therefore, bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, we have Abraham for our father. For I say to you that God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

They thought because they were ethnically Jewish and since they were part of a national covenant, that they automatically had salvation, much the same as people today who say the Church of England or something like this, "I was baptized as a baby," "I have the rites of passage," or "I am culturally Christian," who think they have salvation. Well, they are not really Christian. The fruit is not there.

But then he says in verse 9:

The axe is already laid at the root of the trees.

Here you have another verse with the words "trees" and "axe." Of course, what John is alluding to is the coming destruction of the Temple of Old Testament Judaism. Daniel said the Messiah would come and die before the second

Temple would be destroyed and hence, we see it. There was going to be a seize of Jerusalem. Jesus would later warn about it in Luke 21, Matthew 24, and Mark 13. The siege was coming, but John says, "The axe is already laid at the root of the tree." By the time Jesus showed up, Israel was already under God's judgment. They were already there. They were already going to be destroyed. They just did not know it.

Well, when He comes back, it will be the same thing, only it is not just Israel. It is much of Christendom. The axe is already laid at the root of the tree. The World Council of Churches - the axe is already laid at the root of the tree. They just do not know it yet.

Well, let us see what happens next.

"So every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what shall we do?" And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."

Well, again what does it say in Deuteronomy? If a is tree good for food, do not cut them down. Are trees men so that you can besiege them? Well, when Jesus healed the blind man, the latter says, "I see men walking like trees." Look with me, please, to the book of Isaiah chapter 55:12.

"For you will go out with joy And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

We sing this in a chorus, the Trees of the field. Well, trees are not going to grow literal hands. It is talking about Believers. Trees in the fields will clap their hands. We shall be trees of righteousness; the scripture tells us.

Let us look at Revelation, chapter 7: The planet is under siege. The kingdom of this world is going to become the Kingdom of God and His Messiah. The Day of the Lord is impending. In Revelation 7:3, in the interlude we see:

"Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

Do not harm the trees. Same language, but it all comes from the Torah. There is nothing anywhere in the rest of the Bible that is not in the Torah. There is nothing in the New Testament that isn't in the Old, and there is nothing anywhere else in the scripture not found in the Five Books of Moses – not found in the Torah. It is always fulfilled in the New Testament, but it is already there right from the time of Moses. It is right there in the Torah if we interpret the Torah correctly.

Well, how do we interpret the Torah correctly? We interpret it in light of the New Testament. First, you have the Five Books of Moses, then you have the four Gospels and the Book of Acts. You got a Pentateuch in the Old Testament and a Pentateuch in the New Testament. One interprets the other. The new interprets the old.

What happens if you just read the New Testament? You will have the interpretation, but you will not know what it is interpreting. Christians who only have the New Testament understanding of their faith, according to 1 Corinthi-

ans and according to Hebrews 5, have milk, not meat. People who only understand the New Testament on its own merits have the milk. They do not have the meat. Milk is for babies. Young Christians should be given milk. It is the right thing for them. It calcifies bones. Once you have solid bones, then you can put the meat on the bones. But it is still milk. It is not meat.

When you see people who have been saved five years -- ten years -- and they have never been taught the Old Testament, they are just skinny little bags of bones. There is no meat on the bones because they have never been given meat (Hebrews 5 and 1 Corinthians 3). A baby is not going to grow if you just continue to give it milk. You have got to wean it unto solid food. We are told the same thing in 1 Corinthians 3; we are told the same thing in Hebrews 5. You have got to wean them unto solid food if they are ever going to grow. Many Christians, even Christians in some comparatively good churches, were only taught the New Testament. They have never grown. They do not understand the Old Testament. Unless you understand how the New Testament fulfills the Old Testament, you are going to have a superficial baby food understanding of the New Testament.

Let us continue with this now. Trees: We shall be trees of righteousness. Turn to Matthew 7:16-18. Jesus tells us,

You will know them by their fruits. [Note fruits, plural] Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

And in verses 19 through 23, Jesus simply reiterates and reechoes in a refrain the words of John the Baptist, His cousin.

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

Notice there is going to be people on the day of judgment who think they can be justified, not by their fruits, but by their works or by their gifts. That is a big assumption: assuming their gifts are even real.

"Lord, we did this; we did that; we did the other thing." That is going to be their protest, but it is bad fruits.

Years back, Elim announced the person who was appointed to direct the Kensington Temple Bible School in London was a homosexual. They appointed a homosexual. They appointed Roberts Liardon. He was caught in this big scandal in America. He was on television and everything at Elim and his homosexual lover. He is discredited in America. So Elim brings him over there. Colin Dye said, "We brought him to disciple the next generation." What is he going to

teach them?

Once the Anglicans and the Methodists began ordaining the homosexuals and lesbians, I warned over fifteen years ago that Elim would be the first Pentecostal denomination to compromise on homosexuality. I warned publicly over ten years ago: Elim was going to be the first one to compromise on homosexuality. I said that more than fifteen years ago. Some of you remember. It would have seemed unthinkable at the time. Not because I am so clever or so spiritual or so enlightened -- I am not that clever or that spiritual or that enlightened -- but the patterns of scripture are obvious.

You know, the stuff happens now that Francis Schaeffer said was going to happen in the 1960s, that Walter Martin said was going to happen in the 1960s, that Martin Lloyd-Jones said was going to happen in the 1960s; and they have happened. There are things happening now that Charles Spurgeon warned would happen a hundred years ago, there are things happening now that J. C. Ryle, the first Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, warned of a hundred years ago. They saw this a hundred years ahead of time. They knew what would become of it. Now, at the time they said these things it would have been called "unthinkable," but they understood.

One of the things Jesus said was that there is going to be people thinking you could be justified by your works or justified by your gifts. You will know them by their fruit. "But we did this. We did that one." All these people were saved. Saved into what? He said make disciples, not converts. The Pharisees made converts. They became twice as much a son of hell as they used to be. This is what is going to happen. He is always looking for the fruits. We always explain right from the garden.

Why did Jesus curse the fig tree? Turn with me, please, to the Ezekiel 47:12, which speaks of the Millennial fulfillment of the Hebrew Feast of Tabernacles. Water is going to come out of the Temple. Of course, this is Mayim Hayim, Living Water.

By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.

Notice the fruit is for food, and the leaves will be for healing. Now Revelation 12 tells us the same thing. The leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations. Leaves are figures of good works. When Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to cover up their nakedness before their Creator by sewing fig leaves together. They heard Jesus walking in the garden. Whenever God comes in an incarnate form it is never the Father and never the Holy Spirit, it is always Jesus. They heard Jesus walking in the garden and they tried to sew fig leaves together.

We warned many times that every religion and every cult in the world tries to justify themselves with works. They sew the leaves together. It does not matter if it is Orthodox

Jews keeping the mitzvah or the Jehovah's Witnesses knocking on the door or the Catholics with the novena or the Muslims on the Hajj. Every religion sews fig leaves together. They all try to justify themselves with their works.

Matthew 7:22

Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

He did not deny that they did it or that they did it in His name. God told Adam and Eve, "What are you doing with the leaves?" Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins; there had to be blood atonement. As we always point out, we do good works because we have been saved, not in order to get saved. It is the righteousness of Jesus in us and through us. It is not our own righteousness, strictly speaking. We do good works because we have been saved, not in order to get saved. He is looking for the fruit, not the leaves.

Now, admittedly, we have pointed out many times, the sun in the Middle East is so intense, if the leaves are not covering the figs, the fruit will be burned up. As it says in James 2:26,

Faith without works is dead.

Nobody is putting down works, but if the fruit is really there, if somebody really does have the fruit of the Spirit, there will be works. In the agriculture of Israel, the fruit will grow underneath the leaves, because without the leaves, the sun will destroy the fruit. Jesus saw the leaves, but it was not yet the season for figs. *The Son of Man comes in an hour you do not expect* (Matthew 24:44b). You do not eat the leaves, but you need the leaves. In other words, it is possible to have leaves without fruit, but it is not possible to have fruit without leaves. If somebody really has the fruit of the Spirit, they are going to have works. If the fruit is there, there must be leaves, otherwise there would be no fruit. It is not possible to have fruit without leaves. It is not possible to have the fruit of the Spirit without works, but it is possible to have works to try to cover up for the fact you do not have the fruit of the Spirit. You can have leaves without fruit, but you cannot have fruit without leaves. You can have works without the nature of Christ in your life, but you cannot have the nature of Christ in your life without having works.

We see here the Living Water is going to come down in the Millennial reign of Christ, and Ein Gedi is going to have marine life. If you have been down to the Dead Sea, it is the lowest elevation on the face of the earth, and it is one of the most barren deserts in the world. I have not been to the Gobi Desert, but I have been to the Australian outback and I have been to the deserts of the American Southwest and I have been to the Sahara Desert. I have even flown over the Arabian Desert in an airplane over Saudi Arabia. I must say, the Negev, the wilderness of Judah, ranks right up there in terms of hostile environments. There is nothing. Even the water has no life in it. In the Dead Sea, there is no life in it. The salinity of the water is so high, nothing can even live in

it. Even the water is lifeless. It is just a very, very barren place, and it is extremely hot.

From the end of June until the beginning of September, you cannot go outdoors between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for more than a few minutes. You can sometimes see Israeli soldiers literally fry eggs on a jeep and the eggs would actually cook. That is how hot it is. They carry more weight in water than they do in bullets. Sergeants or somebody are always yelling to "Drink! Drink!" and "take the salt tablets." You can dehydrate and go into sun stroke. It is really a hostile place.

Right between Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are from, and about 16 miles to the south is Masada. Then, just past that going further south would be where Sodom is; it is a very hostile place now. There is a beautiful oasis called Ein Gedi and we are told that in the Millennial reign of Christ in Ezekial 47, living water is going to flow out of Jerusalem and people are actually going to fish in the Dead Sea, and the water will roll down by Ein Gedi. There will be marine life and then they will cast nets. This will happen in the Millennial reign of Christ. There will be geophysical changes to the earth's topography.

However, there is the spiritual meaning in it. When the living water flows, this was the imagery of John, chapter 7. You know when the Holy Spirit is outpoured, this is represented in Biblical typology by the reign.

Look please to Isaiah 44:3,

"For I will pour out water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring And My blessing on your descendants"

The Holy Spirit outpoured is represented by rain. You have got the former/latter rain. There is an outpouring of God's Spirit in Israel at the beginning of the church. That is the week of Pentecost, Hag Shavuot. And there is an outpouring on Israel in the Last Days. Zachariah 12, I will pour on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The first Christian were Jews; the last Christians will be Jews. The Church will open and close with an outpouring of God's Spirit on Israel and the Jews. The time of the Gentiles is in the middle.

Well, this water outpoured is a picture of the Holy Spirit coming. The water goes into a water table and it forms something called Mayim Hayim -- Living Water. Hence, Jesus tells the woman at the well in John 4, I will give you Mayim Hayim, which is Living Water. John 7, For this He spoke of the Holy Spirit. When there is no rain, there is no harvest.

Well, let us look further. Turn with me, please, to Amos 4:7,

"Furthermore, I withheld the rain from you While there were still three months until harvest. Then I would send rain on one city And on another city I would not send rain; One part would be rained on, While the part not rained on would dry up."

We are in a spiritual drought. There has not been a revival in England since the late 1940s with Duncan Camp-

bell and the Hebrides. That was the last time that you had rain in the United Kingdom, a big rain. It rained. There has not been a revival in the United States, a real revival, since the hippies, since the Jesus Movement of the late 60s, early 70s. That was the last time it rained. There is a drought in the Western world. If you go to Africa, if you go to Asia, if you go to Latin America, it is pouring. Now the Church in the Third World, there are a lot of problems. Hinderance of scripture, a lack of qualified leaders, discipleship, poverty, and persecution in some places. The Third World church has a lot of problems, but evangelism is not one of them. People are being saved in huge numbers.

Just think of Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country in the world. I go to Indonesia sometimes. Can you imagine a midweek meeting – a midweek meeting – in the most populated Muslim country on earth where 2,000 to 3,000 people come in? They would not miss it for the world. Saved out of Islam, saved out of Hinduism, and God knows what else, headhunters, and all sorts. A couple thousand people for a mid-week meeting. In hot, sweltering heat right on the equator, but they've got rain.

On our website, we get more hits from Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country in the world, than we do from any other country except the United States. We get more people coming to our website from Indonesia than we do from Britain, from Australia, from Canada, and from Europe. This is the most populous Muslim country in the world! They come to hear the Gospel. It is raining. It is raining in the most populous Muslim country in the world. In Britain, however, there is a drought. People are turning to Islam.

When I was last in Liverpool, I could not believe how many English girls I saw have become Muslims, just down by St. Johns Square by the shopping mall in Liverpool. It was Clayton Square. I could not believe how many of them. These were English girls who married Muslims. The Muslims are turning to Christ in Asia. It is quite a thing. It has rained. One place rained on; the place not rained on would dry up. Well, the fact of the matter is we are in a drought.

Let us look at Mother England. There is only one place where it is raining in England. I have been saying it for years. You will not find a single gypsy caravan site in the United Kingdom, not even one, where there are not Believers. Less than 20 years ago, you would not have found a gypsy caravan site where there were any Believers. Now, you cannot find a site where there are not any Believers. Every Gypsy family in the United Kingdom has Believers in it. "My brother's one." "My sister's one." "My wife is one." "My parents are that." These were people who made their living as petty swindlers. They did not do that when they got saved. These people were illiterate, could not even read the scripture. When they get saved, they learned to read because they wanted to read the Bible. They could not read before that, most of them. Well, every single gypsy caravan site in this country has Believers on it. The continent of Europe is

estimated – and I believe it, because I met some of its pastors – that 80% of the gypsies in Spain and Portugal are born again. Tremendous amount of gypsy Believers in France and in Romania -- look again what it says in Amos 4:7:

“Furthermore, I withheld the rain from you While there were still three months until harvest. Then I would send rain on one city And on another city I would not send rain; One part would be rained on, While the part not rained on would dry up.”

Most of Britain is drying up. Most of the Western world is drying up, but some places have rain. Let us understand this a little bit. We are in a spiritual drought.

There was a man. When he moved to America, he was recruited by NASA. He was said to be the leading expert on cloud meteorology in England. He was a Jewish Believer from Cambridge University and he was literally considered to be the number one expert on clouds in England. Anyway, he was recruited by NASA and he went to America. He is a Jewish guy, and he is a Believer. I know him. I know his mother. He can tell you everything about clouds. He can tell you about static electricity. He can tell you about electrostatics. He can do all kinds of equations and explain the way the cirrus clouds work, and he knows about every kind of clouds. He goes on about clouds. He can talk to you about clouds for hours. He tends to, perhaps, talk above your level because he does the equations. He explains the physics about the precipitation, the cumulus clouds, cirrus clouds – the guy is into clouds.

Well, people have tried cloud seeding. Cloud seeding may have some scientific merit, but it appears the experts themselves disagree how much merit cloud seeding has to produce rain. The experts do not agree. There is some evidence, but experts do not agree.

Well, in primitive cultures, American Indians would have a rain dance. The medicine man would have a rain dance. In Africa, the witch doctor would have a rain dance, or a Shaman in Asia would have a rain dance. They thought that they could make it rain by going through these crazy rituals and these wild dances. Of course, there is no proof that the rain dances work any better than cloud seeding.

Today, we have the same thing. We have medicine men and witch doctors trying to make it rain, trying to say there is going to be a revival. We have seen this. In a recent one, they have got a criminally convicted homosexual pedophile sent to prison in Canada for molesting a seven-year-old boy. Then he said he became a Christian, had himself covered completely with tattoos. If you watched him on YouTube or on the “Godless” channel, you’d see he was kicking old ladies in the stomach. The clip of him talking about it is on YouTube. He punches this Chinese guy in the mouth, and the man’s teeth are flying. I am not joking or exaggerating, I am telling you the truth. There is a place called the Evangel Church. He kicks an old lady right in the face with a pair of boots.

Now what do you call it when somebody kicks an old lady in the face with a pair of boots? They used to call it

GBH, Granny Bashing, assault, and battery. The God Channel was calling it a revival. They called it a revival. He kicked an old lady in the face on television! He knocked somebody’s teeth out! They actually say it is a revival! Well, we all know what happened. They try to mimic him in Dudley, England, with the blessings of people like Gerald Coates and the usual crowd. I am only telling you what happened. At St. Andrews, Charlie Wood mocks it while promoting it and saying, “This is the revival.” Peter Wagner came and laid hands on him with Che Ahn and Bill Johnson and they were joined by Rick Joyner, and they all prophesied how this guy was going to bring the revival. Yet, four days later, he abandoned his wife and three kids and takes off with a babe whom he since married.

Cloud seeding is one thing. Getting some madman to do a rain dance is something else. Now Elijah was a man who can make it rain, but that is another story. There is a drought and to make it rain, they are behaving like witchdoctors. They are behaving like medicine men, like Shamans and doing stupid, stupid things. You would not be able to easily find an unsaved person who would watch somebody kicking an old lady in the face and not being disgusted and say that guy ought to be arrested. Wendy Alec said if you speak against this that you are of the devil. You understand what is happening? They have lost their mind. The church has lost its mind. These people have lost their mind. They have lost their mind. The discernment has gone out the window. Now they just lost their mind. When the laughing and drunken thing first came, I said if the people believed this, they will believe anything. Well, here we are now. We are in 12, 15, 20 years later, kicking old ladies in the face. They have lost their minds. There is no rain, instead there is a drought.

Well, let us go back now to Jesus cursing the fig tree. Israel had a work righteousness. It did not have the fruit of the Spirit. So, He cursed it. What does all this mean for us? There is a drought. The trees are not getting water. Trees get water two ways: If they are close enough to an underground stream or close enough to a river or a brook, they can get water through their roots, *riza* in Greek. If it rains, they can get water by osmosis through the leaves and through the branches. That is the only two ways trees can get water.

The desert in Israel is so hot, there is no sagebrush. It is not like Arizona. Even in Arizona, you have got cacti that have needles that can suck what little moisture there is out of the atmosphere, and there are at least some plants that can grow there. Well, you go to the Dead Sea, there is nothing growing there, not naturally. Yet you have got all of these high-nitrate phosphoryl fertilizers in the Dead Sea, the very thing that can make something grow, very powerful minerals used in fertilization, but no water.

When you are driving along, say you come up from Masada up towards Qumran and you are looking around the desert. You’ve got the Dead Sea on one side. Across the Dead Sea you see Edom, the Reddish Mountains; and Jordan; biblical Nabatea up a little further and on the left, you can see just

a ridgeline of these mountains. Then, all of a sudden, you see a stripe of lush green coming down one of the mountains, and you see the sign that says Ein Gedi. Ein Gedi is where King David hid, of course, from King Saul in the cave. In the worst times of the year, July and August, it gets to -- if you can believe it -- 50, 52, 53 degrees Celsius (125 F). No humidity. Totally dry. Over 50 degrees Celsius. That is hot! In July and August, say from late June to early September. That is how hot it is every day.

You see this stripe of lush green out in the middle of nowhere and you can go up there along a narrow path up to Ein Gedi, to where David hid from Saul up in the caves, and there is a beautiful pool up there. And all around, you see there are birds and these trees, and you see there are gazelles hanging out on the cliffs. There are butterflies. There are various kinds of fauna. In the worst time of year, the most hostile environment on the face of the earth, practically -- I have not been anywhere worse. It is the lowest spot on the earth. Blistering sun. Nothing. Definitely nothing. Yet, you see this beautiful patch of green with flowing water and trees growing and all life around it. This is Ein Gedi.

You can see why the Song of Solomon and some on the Psalms celebrate its imagery, because it stands in such contrast to the surrounding topography. When you go there and you see what it is, you'll say, "This is nice." Not only is there water, but the water is cool. The water is cool, and it is just coming down out of these natural cisterns where the water accumulated during the two rainy seasons. It is just beautiful. Green trees, and it is growing. An oasis.

What does this mean for us as Believers who are in a drought, who are in a very hostile environment? Now remember, Ein Gedi was hostile. It was where Saul came looking to kill David. It is a hostile place. Yet, there was this beautiful patch that God had for His faithful in the most blistering of conditions imaginable at one of the worst times in Israel's history when the government had become completely corrupt under King Saul. He had gone into witchcraft and all sorts of things like this. Everything was terrible. There was just a small remnant hiding out in this cave, but God had a provision for them.

Turn with me, please, to the book of Jeremiah 17:7,

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord And whose trust is the Lord."

Whose trust is in the LORD and whose trust is the LORD. Our trust is not simply in Jesus, He is our trust. In other words, what is the difference between trust in the Lord and trust as the Lord? When Jesus was with the apostles and they were being storm-tossed, His complaint was that they did not trust Him. That is trusting in Him. But if He is inside of you by the Holy Spirit, it is not simply that we are trusting in Him, He is our trust. We are not simply trusting in somebody who is outside of us, our compacity to trust is because He is inside of us. It is both. The apostles before the Day of Pentecost could only trust in Him. For us, we can trust in Him, but He is our trust.

Well, let us look at this in verse 8:

"For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit."

So, the Lord always wants fruit. If there is no fruit, He says, "Cut it down." Jesus cursed Israel. It had leaves, not fruit. Jesus warns there are going to be people who are going to point to their works instead of their fruit. Revelation 7 is the same. John the Baptist, the same. Trees, fruit, axe ...

Drought! How can you have leaves -- how can you have fruit, when the trees are getting no water?

Most of the Western world is in a drought. America is largely running on the inertia of its Christian past; Britain, Europe, and other places are post-Christian and Neopagan, except for little patches. For the one who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord, they will be like the tree planted by water that extends its roots by a stream. It will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, despite the drought, despite the fact that the Holy Spirit is being withheld in judgment. Amos 4. Despite very difficult conditions, for certain people, their leaves will be green. They will still have good works. The reason their leaves will be green is because they are planted by a stream. What is the stream? Ezekiel 47 tells us: Living Water. In the worst desert you can imagine, there is an Ein Gedi.

I was in Liverpool recently. It is godless. You go down Hope Street into the book shop -- I went there a few years ago -- they would not even sell books by J. C. Ryle because he obviously was opposed to Roman Catholicism and things like this. Most of the people who came to faith from his ministry were Irish immigrants at one point. No, you will not find any books by J. C. Ryle in the Crowdy joint on Hope Street. You will find John Lennon's book, A Spaniard in the Works or tourist books about the Beatles. They sell that stuff, but they will not sell any biblically Christian books. That is a drought. That is a pretty godless city.

Just walking through the street, I could not believe how many people were just drunk. Young people. They are just drunk. I went into a little pizza shop and I began witnessing to the bouncer. There are so many drunks that pizza shops need bouncers in the center of Liverpool! I knew nightclubs needed bouncers. There was this little Welsh girl with red hair I was talking to and some drunk came in. He was obnoxiously drunk. The bouncer just stood there and looked at him, but this little Welsh girl grabs the guy and physically throws him down unto the ground, and this drunk is laying on the ground and this little woman is -- oh, boy. Welcome to Liverpool.

I gave the guy a tract, and he said he was interested in Jesus and religion. He told me he had been going to yoga lessons. Do you understand? To him it is all the same thing. Jesus, Judaism, Buddah -- they are all the same to him. I gave him the tract, tried to talk to him. He is a nice guy. His name is Mike. He lives with his girlfriend. Nice people. Friendly

people. But just godless. This is a drought. This is a drought. What do you do? How can you have good works when there is no rain? How can the leaves be green? The leaves are green because there is water in there. If there is no water in there, it would not be green. But we are told the one whose trust is in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord, even in a drought, the leaves will be green. They will still do good works.

Look what else it says about such people in Jeremiah 17:8, of where we are told:

That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes;

Well, the heat is coming. It is getting worse. If you will not take that baby from that orphanage and give it over to a same-sex couple to be brought up as a homosexual or a lesbian, you have committed a hate crime. You can be prosecuted by the crown, thanks to Tony Blair. That is the law. That is British law. It is a hate crime. If you will not take that kid and hand him over to two Nancy boys, you have committed a hate crime. Lily Savage would be just as good of a mother as anybody else. That is the law. That is the law! Boy is it getting hot! Christians are being increasingly portrayed in the media as bigots when the real bigots – Muslims – are being portrayed as a religion of peace and tolerance. When anybody in their right mind knows they are not.

Do not get me wrong. It is frustrating, but they will not fear when the heat comes. Its leaves will still be green. It will not be anxious in the year of drought. There seems to be plenty of cause for anxiety the way things are going, but Jesus said, “Be anxious for nothing.” Yes, we are in a spiritual drought. Now, Elim is appointing homosexuals to disciple the next generation. Boy is this something sick. Completely sick. You have to buy a license to have a television and pay for pornography. If you make a complaint about blasphemy or pornography to the Broadcasting Standards Council, the Ofcom, they will write you back and say, “We do not find this offensive.” You can say anything you want about Jesus or do anything pornographic, however, if you say anything against radical Islam or against any of these things, Ofcom will come and investigate you.

I was on Genesis TV. I had just filmed three months' worth of television shows, and everything was “Ofcom” “Ofcom” “Ofcom”. They will target Believers and look for anything they can get on you. Now, unsaved people can say and do anything. They do not care because the people in Ofcom and in the Broadcasting Standards Council are mostly homosexuals and lesbians themselves, or they are extreme left-wing people who are pro-Islam, not because they love Muslims, but because they hate Christians -- the heat. We are told will not fear when heat comes. But its leaves will be green, will not be anxious in a year of drought.

I am not anxious. I am concerned, and I am particularly troubled for unsaved loved ones -- for backslidden loved ones. But for myself, Jesus said do not to be anxious in the time of drought. Nor will it cease to yield fruit. Just think: In a drought, we can still yield the fruit of the Spirit. I repeat, in

a drought we can still yield the fruit of the Spirit. Trees of righteousness in the worst drought will still have green leaves, will still have water in them, will still bear fruit, do not have to be anxious, and do not have to fear. Ein Gedi. There is still going to be water.

I find Ein Gedi's around in England. I find Ein Gedi's in a lot of places. You do not have to drive far from Liverpool. You only have to drive to Ainsdale. You can do it in a half hour up through Cosby and you are in Ainsdale. You can come to a little store and what will you see in this desert? A patch of green, Living Water. Life, not death. In the middle of North London, Ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood, total crazy people -- people believe in Kabbalah, hate Jesus, hate Jews who believe in Jesus. They hate them. Yet, right down on Bridge Lane is Tony Pearce's church where my daughter is member. It is a patch of green.

If you want to talk about a really godless city, it is Manchester. We have a lovely group of Believers associated with our ministry who meet in Reddish, the south side of Manchester between Manchester and Stockport, lovely place, the patch of green. There is life in there. Oh, there is a desert, but we've got green. There is a drought. We have got the water. Dead trees, no fruit, no leaves. We have got leaves. We have got water. Ein Gedi is just a little patch, but it stands out. Compared to everything that surrounds it, it stands out. You can even see it from Jordan, not because it is big or impressive, but because it is green. It has got water. It stands out.

Places like this, they are not big. They are in the middle of a desert, but they stand out. They stand out. Where two or more gathered in my name, I am there in their midst. The ones whose trust is in the Lord, the ones whose trust is the Lord. Yes, we are in a desert. Yes, we are in a drought. Yes, the heat is on. But do not be anxious Jesus said, and do not fear. You are still going to have water. You are still going to have green leaves. You are still going to be able to bear fruit. No matter how hot it gets, no matter how adverse the conditions, no matter how hostile the environment, you are going to have Water. The leaves will be green, and you are still going to bear fruit in its season.

In our next issue, we will begin talking about the fruit. Now those trees that do not bear fruit, what happens to them? Cut them down. That Crowdy joint may have been founded by Believers, but it has gone the way of Paddy's Wigwam. Cut it down. What about Elim appointing a homosexual to run their Bible school in London? Get an axe. Cut it down. Cut it down. The trees do not bear fruit. Get an axe. Cut them down. Cut them down.

I am not worried about them. I tried to warn those people ten, fifteen, even twenty years ago. They did not want to know. All they did was tell me that I'm no good. I knew that already. They did not have to tell me that. I already knew about that. But by the grace of Jesus, I am planted by Living Water. By the grace of Jesus, my leaves are still green. By the grace of Jesus, my leaves are still green. By the grace of Jesus, I can still bear fruit and so can you.

SANDY SIMPSON UPDATE

We have been doing well since we got past our Covid-19 sickness. Rose is back to work and I have been busy working on a 6-Part Jude DVD series as well as articles. I continue teaching Sunday school, a Bible study and running sound, overheads and video at our church. I also continue to put together and send out both my DITC e-newsletter and Moriel Ministries Be Alert. As you are well aware we may be in for some series issues in America and in the churches in this coming year. Yet our mandate as believers remains the same. That is what the following article I just wrote is all about.

How to cancel the “cancel culture” by Sandy Simpson 1/4/21

“Cancel culture” is defined thusly,

Cancel culture (or call-out culture) is a modern form of ostracism in which someone is thrust out of social or professional circles - either online on social media, in the real world, or both. (Wikipedia)

Sorry, but there actually is no way to cancel the cancel culture. Well, there is one very important exception. The reason I say that is because the cancel culture is based on a worldview that is postmodern, existentialist, subjectivist, politically correct (PC), and socialist. We've seen this crop up recently in politics where we find out that people who have bought into this kind of mindset are not interested in actual dialogue because they are unable to argue their points. So rather than discuss objections, they want to silence or get rid of their opposition in any way possible. This is all because they delusionally believe that they are right and everyone else is wrong and they shouldn't have to have a dialogue about anything. If you try to talk to them you find out rather quickly that they apparently have lost the ability to employ common sense or logical processes and have given themselves over to emotionalism. They consider themselves to be free thinkers but in actuality, they are the most conformist generation we have seen in recent history.

Parallels can be drawn to the former Soviet Union and Nazi Germany where people had to carry the party line or else be put away somewhere where their voice could not be heard, or even killed. All of this is because cancel culture adherents are either incapable of or are not interested in studying actual reality. They want to live in their delusional state and their fairytale Utopian ideas. I suspect this is why they are so adamantly against the use of the Bible because it completely conflicts with their new world order they want to create. It's impossible to talk to them and reason with them.

Proverbs 18:2 A fool does not delight in understanding, But in revealing his own mind.

So the only possible solution is for them to hear the

gospel message and have the Holy Spirit convict them of their sins. They then need to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His substitutionary death on the cross for them and His resurrection as a guarantee of their future resurrection. There's no way for them to understand reality today without being born again. Once you're born again then the Holy Spirit leads you to study God's word and begin to understand how your worldview has been completely corrupted.

Proverbs 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Today we are reaping the results of many decades of public education that has been taken over by socialists who have been teaching their agenda to most of our kids. We only have a small group of people left over, mainly from generations past, who know the danger of what's going on. But their numbers are dwindling. Fortunately, we as Christians know what we need to do. Our job is to preach the gospel, allowing the Holy Spirit to convict people of their sins and open them up to being able to make a profession of faith. But we also know that we have to continue beyond the gospel message onto discipling people. We have a big job to do and it's a job that includes changing people's worldviews. But we can't do that simply by logic in the debates and articles and books, etc. The unbeliever is incapable of understanding what we're talking about. Oh yes, they may be able to employ a smattering of worldly logic and other things as an unbeliever but they can't accept the truth. Because of that, they have dumbed themselves down to the point where there's no way to even reach them.

Fortunately, God changes people from the inside out not the outside in. What the worldly cultures are trying to do is to change people from the outside in. They are teaching them to spout the same nonsense that is being paraded around as reality by the news media in homes and classrooms all over this nation and it's not just this nation; it's also all over the world at this point. This is why it's such a shame when churches begin to adopt worldly methodology, using postmodern psychology and New Age methods to try to reach people. All they're doing is giving people the excuse to remain as ignorant as they are now.

2 Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: (KJV)

But this article is a reminder that we as believers hold the key. We are the light-bearers. We are the salt (Matt. 5:13-14). We have a job to do but in many cases, we have let that slide. We need to pick back up what we are supposed to be doing, which starts with the Great Commission (Mark 16:15), and then get busy trying to help as many people as we

can (Matt. 28:19) because otherwise they'll be taken over by the World, the flesh, and the devil. We are at war against principalities and powers (Eph. 6:12) and they have been using a clever diaprax on the human race. Now it's all coming to fruition. This is why the Bible talks about a time when there'll be a general delusion among mankind.

2 Thessalonians 2:11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false.

They will no longer love truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved.

This is why they choose teachers who will tickle their ears with mythology and the false ideas of a postmodern age.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires.

We still have a chance with our younger kids if we begin to teach them now. But if we don't then we are allowing the deluded to gain control of everything. I frankly don't see much hope for a lot of people, especially in the United States and Western Nations, because they've given themselves over to this postmodern demonic mindset. Notice that logic, debates, articles, and books are virtually ignored. The unbelievers prove they are incapable of understanding what we're talking about. Oh yes, they may be able to employ some form of logic as an unbeliever but they can't accept Biblical Truth. Because of that, they have allowed themselves to be dumbed down to the point where there's no way to even reach them.

They would rather cancel somebody out than listen to what they have to say. I know some young people who think older people just need to die off so they can bring in their New World Order. The problem is that the New World Order is going to end up being controlled by the Antichrist. We can already see this on the horizon. We see that this cancel culture is what's behind the riots, protests, dirty politics, and lies coming out of Washington. It's what's behind the massive fraud of this current election.

I desire to see people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and then move on to understanding this world through what the Bible teaches. The Bible is not just a book of stories that are fun and useful for moral teaching but is also a book of history from the beginning of the world, a book of scientific and archeological facts. When you realize that we have a book that says that Adam actually left a written record of what happened after he was created then you have to realize we have a book that is as old as this world.

Genesis 5:1 This is the written account of Adam's family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God.

It's a book from the beginning of time. It wasn't just a bunch of stuff that Moses made up. Oh yes, he assembled

it but he's not the one who wrote the accounts of Adam (Gen. 5:1) and Noah (Gen. 6:9) and Shem (Gen. 11:10) and Terah (Gen. 11:27), etc.

There have been many books and articles written with excellent apologetics on many issues and yet this culture, this "cancel culture", is not interested in reading them or understanding them or even hearing them at all. So that's basically what we're dealing with. And unfortunately, we're also dealing with it in the churches. Often whatever the world is doing is reflected in the modern apostate churches as well. I'm not talking about the true church I'm talking about the many churches and denominations and organizations out there that call themselves Christian but are not grounded in Biblical truth. The Bible is clear that in the end times we will see an apostasy or falling away from the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

That's what's already happening and the delusion that God is sending is already beginning. I've never seen people as delusional as I have seen today. I don't remember it ever being this bad before. I don't remember a time when you couldn't even talk to people and reason with them about issues. So, in that sense, it is very demonic because it's a hundred eighty degrees out of phase from reality. Interestingly the Bible says the demons know the Bible.

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder.

Mark 1:34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

I'm sure they know what's in there and they're afraid of it and they recognized in it is true reality and so they use it to get people off track by often twisting it out of phase. They just need to continue to bombard this cancel culture with sin and sinful ideas and after a while, they've got them under their control and they don't even realize it. That's what happens with brainwashing. In a sense, our entire generation has been brainwashed in many ways. Those of us, who are mature Christians, as we continue to study the Word and repent of our sins, recognize a number of those ways in which the enemy has trapped us. But we need to continue to fight against what he is trying to do, and we do that with the Word.

To be honest, voter fraud in the US and particularly around the world since the 18th century has become commonplace. There are at least 17 instances of voter fraud in the US since 1792 starting in the New York gubernatorial election of George Clinton vs. John Jay where Clinton actually won. Around the world in many countries that did not have free elections, there were hundreds of fraudulent elections (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_controversial_elections). But recently they have become more

commonplace in the US which has prided itself a nation of free speech and the freedom to vote. In any country that has fallen to Communist or Fascist rule, it is always preceded with propaganda by the media and scam elections. It is not hard to see that America is on this same path now.

Yet, in particular, the younger generation is not willing to question what is going on because the cultural propaganda demands that they affirm the actions of politicians who have no moral compass. So they will get what they want and the world will not be the same without a nation that stands for liberty and justice for all.

Mark Levin wrote this in the opening to his book "Liberty and Tyranny".

"So distant is America today from its founding principles that it is difficult to precisely describe the nature of American government. It is not strictly a constitutional republic, because the Constitution has been and continues to be easily altered by a judicial oligarchy that mostly enforces, if not expands, the Statist's agenda. It is not strictly a representative republic, because so many edicts are produced by a maze of administrative departments that are unknown to the public and detached from its sentiment. It is not strictly a federal republic, because the states that gave the central government life now live at its behest. What, then, is it? It is a society steadily transitioning toward statism."

Moreover, do most Americans appreciate liberty, the civil society, republicanism, and economic prosperity or fear their loss? Of course, if you ask someone the question about himself, he is likely to answer yes, although he might wonder about his fellow citizens' grasp and gratitude. But the issue is more perplexing and vital to the future of the American republic than one might initially imagine. An incalculable number of philosophers and scholars, ancient to modern, have written extensively about these topics. It is beyond my mortal competence or the physical limitations of this book to catalog or probe them all here. Although five of my six earlier books have addressed these subjects in various ways, there is great value if not urgency in exploring them further from an additional or a more thorough perspective, given what I believe to be their precariousness in modern America. Thus we must tackle the matter of first principles. After all, this is our heritage. This is not a mere academic or theoretical exercise among elitists, of interest only to professors and navel-gazers. It sits at the core of human existence and American society and, therefore, is relevant to us all. These principles, and understanding them, serve as the antidote to tyrannical regimes and governments.

Although scholarly books have been written warning of the impending demise of America, for the most part, they are ignored by the vast majority of people today who have benefited from American values, which were taken from the Bible. Now they want to get rid of the Bible and

churches. They hate Christians because they stand on what the Bible teaches and therefore are immune to every wave of political correctness that the culture tries to get them to believe and vocalize.

Without a return by Christians to the Great Commission and the discipling believers in the nations, we are seeing a world falling headlong into chaos and the churches taking a plunge into apostasy.

MORIEL CHINA UPDATE

CHINA/HK REPORT JANUARY 2021

As our previous update, we could again sum up our overall situation here in Hong Kong as "not much change" -- just "more of the same", meaning that step by step the Beijing government tightens its grip on political expression, education and the media. Already the local police (Dec. 8th) have

raided the offices of one church here after freezing their accounts in HSBC, and taken away piles of "evidence". This particular church had not expressed any political views, but very active in witnessing to and providing counselling to young people in last year's and this year's public demonstrations. The pastor, Ray Chan, was perhaps providentially visiting UK at the time of the raid. More recently 53 democratic politicians have been arrested (8th January) to be charged with the crimes of "subversion", possible sentences up to 20 years. If Mr. Biden gains the White House (and at time of writing my wife and I are still praying he does not) then it is beyond doubt that Beijing will be emboldened to increase their control of freedom of speech and belief. It would not be a harsh judgement to say that most denominational churches here would immediately "kowtow" to whatever Beijing demands.

Meantime we endeavour within the limitations of Covid precautions (no more than 2 people sitting together in public) to make maximum use of the liberty that exists at this present moment, in particular to reach out to the Muslim communities of Hong Kong. It is not possible for us to cross the border into China proper without 2 weeks quarantine coming and going, so totally impractical for short visits. In particular we have been able to continue on Sundays and sometimes Saturdays to go out to nearly every residential district on HK Island and New Territories to look for as many of the 200,000 Indonesian domestic helpers we can find. These ladies (aged 17-70) take their usual Sunday day of rest in parks, subways, under motorway flyovers and

seaside promenades. We give out the simple Bahasa language tracts we have at the moment (3 different ones), modified with a QR code link to online Indonesian Bible. This process also brings us into contact with other national-

ities, of course some of the Philippina domestic helpers (also 200,000) who we do not wish to leave out (majority of Catholic background). We distribute another (English) tract to them specially written by a brother here. There are also Thai, Nepali and Sri Lankan maids here and the QR code card we have devised works for them as well as for 1500 other nationalities, linking to the 1500 Bible translations on the "Scripture Earth" Website. Other nationalities we meet frequently are Indian Hindi speakers, Punjabi Sikhs, Pakistani, Bengali, Tamil and Turkish -- we have materials also in at least some of these languages.

It occurs to me that not a few readers of the Moriel newsletter might be interested in using/adapting the card and also another card we have made to give to Jehovah's Witnesses which links to Jacob's "5 questions for Jews" tract and other useful websites for them. I show them below and maybe the QR codes work even on the page for you. Anyone who would like the master photoshop versions to modify for your own use, please contact the Moriel admin. The card is designed to be wallet sized.



We are at a "stop" at the moment finishing the translation of our 3 new Indonesian tracts; those who offered to help are fearful to meet with us because of the (apparently) rapid increase in Covid cases reported at the moment.

North of the border we continue to get sparse news of our house church friends in different locations. They are "carrying on" despite extremely heightened surveillance and monitoring of all kinds. Arrests and harassments continue.

The overall economic and political situation in Beijing is as always difficult to analyse; recently there have been extensive blackouts in different areas because of the lack of Australian coal for the power plants. This, the terrible floods of 2020 and the constant ramping up of state control over every kind of private enterprise and initiative must be creating massive damage to the economy. Some

major Chinese banks have folded but information on this is very limited.

We were able successfully to pass on a gift to friends in the NW in the Chinese churches who seek to support the small numbers of believers from Muslim background from Uygur, Kazakh and Kirgiz ethnic groups. From what limited information is available the "re-education camps" of the NW

continue to function and now seem to be linked to using the "reformed people" in labour in various factories and plants.

We continue to research different ways to make the Uygur language Bible APP more available within the mainland. Looking objectively at current opposition to Christian testimony from the technocrats controlling multimedia it is uncertain how long we can do this with present platforms.

As I mentioned, we continue to pray at the present date, despite all indications that the outcome is signed, sealed and delivered, for the just election of Mr. Trump. Among other concerns, that the present liberty to openly proclaim His word may be extended. We remember the amazing events during the final weeks leading up to the last election which resulted in Mr. Trump's first term.

"The night is coming when no man can work; work while you have the light".

As an encouragement in these difficult days to believing prayer, perhaps we might be indulged to include this testimony from a brother working in Tanzania:

"Someone asked the question, if we are in the middle of a pandemic why in this country of Tanzania are we able live normal lives, no masks, no social distancing, meet and sing as usual in church, travel as normal (squashed!) in buses, very few cases of the virus, no cases in the local referral hospital? This is the only country in the world that the president asked for 3 days of fasting and prayer to seek God to defeat this virus and many did. I believe that God has honoured that. Remember the miracle God did at Dunkirk in 1939 after the nation prayed."

God give us to understand the "times and seasons" and to know how to pray! Thankyou for your prayers for us! Brother Xi, Hong Kong



MORIEL ISRAEL UPDATE

Moriel Israel Bulletin

January 2021

Perhaps It Is The Mercy Of God After All

Hebrews 13:3 tells us to “remember those who are in bonds, as though bound with them”, so in our prayer times together, Hadas and I pray for those believers who are persecuted, imprisoned or even about to die on account of their testimony for the Lord Jesus. We pray that they may be encouraged, strengthened, not shrink from their testimony, but endure to the end, even unto death; and we pray for the families of such, that the Lord would provide for them. It is what we would want someone to pray for us, if we were in the same situation.

We cannot take it for granted that we will not be in the same plight in the not too distant future. Not anymore.

Solomon remarked, *What has been, is what will be; there is nothing new under the sun.* Human history is rather like the BBC, constantly showing repeats. There are a number of reasons for this:

1) Fallen human nature has always lapsed into catastrophic societal spiritual and moral failure at some point. Humanity is guaranteed sooner to snatch defeat from the jaws of any victory, because we are sinful and corrupted.

2) Satan has been constantly working to bring forth his anti-messiah, but has been repeatedly frustrated throughout history. The mystery of iniquity has been at work through the centuries and will keep on working behind the scenes until that day when God finally permits the Man of Sin to be revealed.

Since Nimrod, whose name means “we will rebel”, evil rulers and autocrats have continually arisen and fallen. Satan has raised up his candidates for Antichrist and God’s restraint has prevented them from coming to fruition. Societies and civilisations, empires and kingdoms have risen, reached a point where judgement becomes inevitable, and consequently fallen.

Is this cycle of misery however, doomed to go on forever? Are we to be constantly repeating the same weary refrain like a Hollywood franchise, where each successive film in the endless parade of sequels (and prequels) is more abysmal than the last?

Thanks be to God, the answer is a resounding no.

In human fiction or even human history, after the hero triumphs, the seeds of evil are never completely eradicated and they eventually sprout forth, once more to trouble the world. This has been the sour note in every song of victory after all battles hard won. On the other hand, the Bible shows us that evil will one day be finished for *good*. There will be no shoddy sequel where the villain, by an unlikely plot device, survives and rises up to challenge the forces of light and goodness once more. By the time we reach the end of God’s book, all that is finished and done with. He will be our God and we will be His people, His name shall be written on our

foreheads and we will see His face, serve Him, and reign with Him *for ever and ever*. Do not this make our hearts yearn and ache?

Even the evil in our own hearts, that striving of the flesh that so challenges the rule of God, that *will* not and can not submit itself, and with which we fight each day; that will be gone for ever too. What joy that will be! Sin has made Man so *complicated*; we are so ruined and marred by it, that every one of us is a bundle of conflicting desires, fears and mixed motives, and so many “layers”, and we often don’t know what we want or why we want it, and don’t fully understand even ourselves, let alone our fellow man. Small wonder that David cried out “Search me O God and know me”. The human heart is so *deceitful* above all things, as Jeremiah puts it, -that we scarcely know whether we are coming or going at times.

Won’t it be such a *relief* when everything we do, think, feel, desire or imagine will never be out of tune with the perfect will of God? When every action we take or reaction we make, will be wholly glorifying to Him?

We wait for a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth *righteousness*. Where everything and all things will be perfect, without blemish and just so altogether *very good*. We, who have grown up in a world surrounded by sin and torment and death on all sides, find that hard to imagine. We have never experienced the world any other way than it is at present. We have only ever seen it cursed by thorns and thistles, drudgery, disease, pain and decay, war and conflict and horror. We have never seen Creation *full of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea* (Isaiah 11:9). Ah, what a day that will be. Small wonder that the prophets say that the trees and the rivers will “clap their hands” with joy at the coming of the Lord (Isa. 55:12, Psa. 98:8). Paul tells us that all creation groans and travails in anticipation of that day (Rom. 8:22).

But in the meantime there is the here, and rather ugly, now. Global society is in deep crisis and seems set to get worse. The United States in particular is deeply troubled. There are deep rifts within American society tearing it apart, and it seems at least for a season, America is being given over into the hands of deeply wicked and unprincipled people, who have made it quite clear that they are on the same path of devastation and disassembly as Obama. The kind of racist, evil and discriminatory policies that these people favour are calculated to foster already existing divisions and further foment resentment and outrage. Most of us I think, harbour a foreboding that the incident at the Capitol will not be the last such; but is a promise of greater unrest to come.

Knowing human nature for what it is, and what these not only godless, but *haters* of God, have already indicated, that once they have the reigns of power, they will attempt to re-engineer the system so that they can never be removed. Then, if they are successful in this then an oppressive totalitarian regime made in their own image and likeness will be a very probable outcome; and which we can expect to firmly,

and eventually *brutally* (for that is the way these things go), suppress dissenting voices; just as Hitler did through his bands of *Sturmabteilung* Brownshirt thugs and later on by the Gestapo. If civil conflict intervenes, then the Union may not survive in its present form, for a *house divided against itself cannot stand*.

Europe too, is in turmoil and falling apart. And all this is occurring at a time when an increasingly confident, highly aggressive and militaristic China is flexing its muscles in the Far East. Will there be anyone to withstand her if she should embark on a policy of expansion?

Then there is the alarming swiftness with which Big-Tech moved to shut down social-media platforms like Parler, which allowed uncensored free-speech. This augurs very ill for the future, and also reveals how quickly events can transpire in our digital age. The *Sturmabteilung* don't have to visit your print-shop and burn it down any more; they can now accomplish the same end with a few mouseclicks.

From everything that happened under Obama, the general trend worldwide and very recent events, the indications are that we can expect some kind of legal and digital *Kristallnacht* perpetrated against all that does not bow the knee to the forces of political correctness and the New Fascism. They will come gunning for conservative's guns, Christian and conservative 5013c's, their websites, and then church premises. Through restrictive and discriminatory legislation, they will continue the process of criminalising our thoughts and opinions through "hate-speech" legislation which will effectively make thinking biblically and voicing that opinion illegal. They've said as much, and at least on this matter I would be inclined to believe them.

This is nothing new of course. It's all happened before.

In 1940 after the initial Allied defeat, the collapse of France and the safe evacuation of the British Army from Dunkirk. Churchill addressed the nation:

What General Weygand has called the battle of France is over. The battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the existence of Christian civilisation, Upon it depends our own British life and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire. *The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us.* Hitler know that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be freed and the life of the world may move forward into broad sunlit uplands.

But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including *all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister and perhaps more protracted by the lights of perverted science.*

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty, and so bear ourselves, that if the British Empire and its Commonwealths last for a thousand years, men will still say THIS was their finest hour. (Winston Churchill Their Finest Hour June 18th 1940)

What Churchill did not foresee in 1940 was the even-

tual breakdown and dissolution of democracy in the West to be replaced by a radical Marxism which, if God permits, will become no less repressive than that of the Nazi regime (which was not "right" wing as is often supposed but stood for *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*, the National Socialist German Worker's Party).

Whether or not democracy and freedom of speech can be rescued, either in America or Europe, as happened after World War Two, is uncertain; but Churchill's words sound almost like a prophecy.

The quashing of democracy and free-speech are not Satan's ultimate targets however, these are just necessary preconditions for his real agenda of silencing the the voice of the Gospel, preventing the dissemination and proclamation of God's Word and eradicating the seed of the Woman. If he cannot corrupt the Divine message, he will try to suppress it; but if he can do both at the same time, all the better. Like Churchill in 1940, we need to realise that once they have consolidated their power, the demonic principalities behind these new fascists will turn their whole fury and might on their real target: -the Body of Christ and the Gospel.

It is all too easy to become lulled into placing our trust for the future in something other than the LORD. It is a human tendency to perhaps, not consciously, not wilfully, look to the solidity of our institutions and our system of government as guarantors of the wellbeing and continuity of our nation. Or perhaps we thought that President Trump could save the United States. I actually liked Trump in spite of his obvious flaws. As a president he actually seemed to be accomplishing something positive, against tremendous odds. Even on a bad day, he could hardly do worse than his abysmal predecessor, who may go down as America's worst ever president, -unless of course he is eclipsed in his awfulness by Joe Biden.

Nevertheless, if we put had put our trust in Trump, we made a dangerous error. Scripture specifically warns against this.

Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God. (Psa. 146:3-5)

The city of Nineveh had walls great and high, and so broad and thick it was said that two chariots could ride abreast around them. Yet it fell extremely rapidly to the combined forces of the Medes and Babylonians, as a fortuitous flood washed away the foundations of the mud-brick walls and a long stretch of it collapsed making the city impossible to defend. Ancient Babylon, another superpower of the Ancient Near East, fell in one night (see Daniel chapter five).

But before all these cataclysmic events, there is always a period of decline first.

Unfortunately, societies have changed since 1940 and England and the US are no longer the bastions of freedom and democracy, and we are running out of people in places of influence for whom ideals of freedom and democracy even

constitute a part of their value system. The West has been overrun and evil principles that would have warmed the hearts of Hitler, Stalin and Mao have become enshrined within our national institutions and governmental bodies and through our subverted educational systems, have indoctrinated our children. Perverted anti-God value systems have been rotting the West away like a cancer for decades, and like a tree dying from within, all it takes is a strong wind.

The USA cannot save Britain from its moral rot and descent into totalitarianism; as it too is suffering from the same decay and is under similar judgement. Brexit may be putting some distance between Britain and Europe again, but Britain is not distancing itself from its national sin. There is no national repentance, therefore there can be no *national* healing and restoration.

What the events of 2020 and those at the Capitol last week do tell us. Is that totalitarianism is only a breath away. Social conditioning and enforcement of behaviour, in this case, -mask-wearing, surveillance and monitoring, exclusion and suppression of non-accepted ideas, and eventually economic exclusion of the non-compliant or non-approved are only a keyboard stroke away. Here in Israel, those who have received what is purported to be a vaccine will be issued a digital passport allowing them to return to work and travel normally. What happens to those who *refuse* to take what to all appearances is an experimental treatment, is as yet unannounced. Even the efficacy of this inoculation against the new South African strain is not clear. Both our prime minister who is certainly using the vaccination program to generate political capital for the forthcoming elections in March, and the pharmaceutical companies, who are set to sell billions of doses worldwide and have been given the green light to use Israel as one huge laboratory, -have every motivation *not* to announce the fact, *if* at this stage the inoculation proves useless against the new strain. At the very least, it would induce panic in a world looking for an end to the Corona fiasco if this magic bullet turned out to be a dud.

What is certain however, is that *non-take up* of the medication is recorded in our digital health records. Non-compliance has been digitally noted for future reference and a mark is placed alongside our name. Will that be used against us in the distant, or even *near* future in the current climate? Will it affect our ability to travel, to enter retail outlets and public spaces? I don't know, but it's disturbing.

All these things taken together would paint a very bleak picture, if indeed this world was all that we had. We would feel like the wit who penned the line: *Due to the present economic climate, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off.*

Whether we are at the threshold of that terrible time of persecution for the saints, unparalleled in its extent, that Jesus speaks of in Matt. 24: is unknown, but we have a little time at least. A number of things must first come to pass; one of them most specifically, is the revelation of the Man of Lawlessness. Scripture clearly reveals, on comparing 2nd Thessalonians chapter two with Revelation chapter thirteen, that his

satanic parousia with all manner of lying signs and wonders and deception of those who believe not the Gospel, happens when the restrainer is removed at the midpoint of the 70th Week of Daniel at which he is finally permitted to act. Certain things then have to be in place before that, the restoring of the temple and the sacrificial system being the most obvious. However, as recent history shows us, events can move very swiftly indeed and radical societal changes can transpire with terrifying speed.

When that time of distress comes, would we prefer to enter it as seasoned soldiers are as raw recruits?

Nobody wants to be persecuted. I certainly don't.

But if we were going to be conscripted to fight in a deadly conflict, we would hope, nay *expect*, to receive at least basic training. From what my father told me about his national service in the 50's the sergeant majors were sadistic so-and-so's who made you feel reviled, humiliated and demeaned, and then there's also exhausting physical training to build strength and endurance, hard knocks and blows, weapons training and hand to hand combat, all with that extra topping of what appears to be relentless abuse from your training officer.

While there are some NCO's that enjoy tormenting recruits just because they can, it's actually designed to condition and temper future soldiers against the emotional, physical and mental trauma of being in a war.

Imagine wading through the Normandy surf on D-Day as onto that barbed-wire festooned beach being raked by constant machine-gun fire and mortar-shelling as an unprepared civilian. It doesn't bear thinking about.

The Lord's dealings with His children always arise out of His loving, all-wise and omniscient concern for us. If our generation is to be the one that sees the coming of the Lord Jesus in glory, then it will also be the one that experiences the events that will precede it. Would we rather go into such a time completely unprepared and untrained to cope with persecution, hardship and hatred and abuse on account of His name? Wouldn't we *want* some basic training at least first?

Those young men that fought and died in such large numbers to prevent Nazism from inaugurating a *new dark age*, would have wept to see us cast away what they sacrificed so much for, but such a thing was inevitable. The sunlit uplands that Churchill spoke of were a dream of peace based upon a defective view of human nature: for he believed that humanity was outgrowing barbarism. All that has happened in the intervening three-quarters of a century since then however, is that human barbarism is simply *better-equipped*, while still remaining just as capable and just as willing as ever it was, to create a society commensurate with Hitler's aspirations.

Our sunlit uplands however, our dream of peace, is that based upon a kingdom that cannot be moved (Heb. 12:28), on a reign that will endure to all eternity, ruled by a king who is *holy* and *just* and *good*, and indeed is described as love itself, in whom is no darkness at all. He has none of the

malice, corruption, guile and underhandedness that so characterise human politics.

Thy throne O God is for ever and ever, a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom: because Thou hast loved righteousness and hated wickedness, therefore God, Thy God hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows. (Psa. 45:5-6)

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

He shall reign for ever and ever in *righteousness*, because He is *Faithful and True and He is worthy*:

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing! And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever!"

And we shall reign with Him in a restored creation filled with His glory. Hallelujah! What a hope we have!

So harsh as it may seem, frightening as it may initially appear, the Lord has not abandoned us, far from it; *though the mountains be removed and cast into the heart of the sea, the Lord of Hosts is with us the God of Jacob is our refuge*. If we are to enter a time when our democratic freedoms and rights are taken away, if we are to become a hated and reviled minority, social misfits and pariahs: if this is what has been ordained or permitted for us at this time, then rather than being a total disaster,--perhaps it is the *mercy* of God after all. He will not send His saints into the conflict unprepared.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Rev. 2:10)

But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:" And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. (Rev. 2:25-29)

**Blessings from Israel,
Elon and Hadas**

MORIEL NEW ZEALAND UPDATE

Blessings everyone.

Well, what a tumultuous period in history we're going through. Things seem to be escalating at an unprecedented rate. We seem to be hurtling towards that wonderful moment when our Lord and Saviour returns and I for one rejoice at

this. This world is getting so dark and there's nothing here for us believers but the hope we have in Jesus. One realizes how bad things have become when non-believers can recognize that there is something wrong. More than once I've had conversations with non-believers where they reference George Orwell's 1984 and as encouraging as it is to see them able to recognize where we're at, it also makes for a great opportunity to witness to them.

The 'Liberal Left' now considers anyone who has an opposing view to them as 'Right Extremists'. Suddenly anyone who has an opposing view is a racist, bigot, terrorist or any other label they feel like adding in there. I was reading an article published in the Guardian which is an extract from a book, *Rescaper du Goulag Chinois (Survivor of the Chinese Gulag)* by Gulbahar Haitiwaji with Rozenn Morgat, which describes the re-education schools the Chinese Government use to train (i.e. brainwash) people who are not like-minded. Harrowing, to say the least, but the really concerning aspect of this is how often we hear left-leaning liberals calling for the removal of free thought and free speech. We need to wake up in the West. If Christians think it will never happen here then the really bad news is it is here already. Look at who is running your country. Understand what they stand for and what their plan is. Fear is used to control, and through fear people become compliant and believe their only saviour is the government and organizations like the WHO. It's time to wake up. Facebook already has its Thought Police called Fact Checkers hard at work to remove anything that doesn't fit the narrative. In NZ, we've had instances of Police visiting a supporter of what is considered a Conservative Right-Wing Party (in reality they stand for family values and what the Bible teaches). What played out was very much like a scene straight out of Hitler's playbook. We're seeing more and more of this happening in places like England, Australia, Canada etc. Countries we've always believed to be free are abusing civil and democratic rights on a daily basis and the majority cheer it on. Their fear drives them to do in their neighbours, their friends and even their family. Sound familiar? If they can do this now, imagine when things are so dark and they are looking for the Christians. Brothers will turn against their own brothers and hand them over to be killed. Fathers will hand over their own children to be killed. Children will fight against their own parents and will have them killed. Mat 10:21

Take comfort though that God is with us and is aware of all that is going on and that we are going through. Keep your eyes firmly on Him and in these last days immerse yourself in the Word for this will provide comfort, strength and steadfastness.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

Do not be afraid, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you, I will also help you,

I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand. Is 41:10

May the Lord Bless and keep you all.

In Jesus, Pierre & Marguerite

TISSONS' MISSIONARY UPDATE

“If America is a melting-pot, Israel is surely a pressure-cooker!”

I remember how the chief editor of Jerusalem Post, was joking as he was invited to say a few words at the Jerusalem Baptist Church almost two decades ago...

If it was true then, you can certainly imagine how especially true it is now, and especially in the Jerusalem area, as our pressure-cooker is boiling steaming hot.

Israeli society has long been divided over differences in ethnicity, religious beliefs and political convictions, much like many other countries in the West are. But especially now, as the pandemic is raging and mutating, the lines of division seem to grow thicker and harder to penetrate, as the sectors of society often blame each other for the quick spread of the virus.

Two sectors in particular, that seem to challenge the official government policies concerning lockdowns and social restrictions, are the Ultra-Orthodox Jews and Muslim Arabs. Ironically, we here in Jerusalem are situated right in the midst of both these large sectors and get to see their suffering and conduct during these difficult times.

Jerusalem is not the same now, as it was 20 years ago when we left. The secular Jewish majority of the city has been drastically reduced as many moved out of the city, and as Ultra-Orthodox Jews as well as Arabs, due to their high natural growth, have taken over many neighborhoods and areas.

Working in co-operation with Beith Geulah, one of the largest and most active Messianic congregations in the Area, we are working hard at reaching both Jews and Arabs with the gospel message.

Moriel – Jerusalem is now working on three main levels of evangelism. Our most successful efforts, especially in light of the lockdowns, are through our newly published and continuous series of Hebrew videos (with English subtitles) focusing on Messianic prophecies in the Hebrew Bible and their fulfilment in Christ.

By God's grace, we estimate that our videos have reached about 7,000 people throughout the country over the last quarter of 2020. Some liked our videos and others, not surprisingly, found them objectionable.

We are striving to publish more and more videos in Hebrew, every second week, if possible, and could really use your help in advertising them and covering their costs.

On the more intimate, person to person, evangelism level, we have had to use short opportunities in between lockdowns to distribute Hebrew and Arabic gospel literature and discuss Christ with as many as the Lord enables us to reach.

As we were required to remain indoors for weeks on end, it was interesting to see how the Lord has managed to bring our audience to us, in the form of renovation workers, electricians, internet technicians and other professionals who had to come over to serve us and never left our house without some printed gospel materials. By God's grace, we've even managed to give Arabic Bibles to a couple of Arab workers who came to install things in our home.

We are also in the process of publishing our second gospel booklet/tract in Hebrew. This time focusing on the high mortality rates among Orthodox-Jewish population and using

the grief in many people's hearts to talk to them about their own mortality, the judgment of the Lord upon our sins, and their own eternal destiny on the other side of this world.

Sadly, it is often only when people die around us, that many begin to think about the possibility of their own death and about standing before the Lord in judgment, and Moriel – Jerusalem is striving to be here and share Christ and His grace with them.

Please pray with us that the Lord will use this sad and difficult reality, and us - broken tools as we are, to reach as many souls as He wishes to save, among both the Jewish and Arab communities in Jerusalem and all over Israel.

The third level of evangelism in which Moriel – Jerusalem is now actively involved in, is in training effective and Biblically focused evangelists among the churches we co-operate with in the land. We've recently held a very pleasant and well-received evangelism seminar at our local church in Jerusalem, which we are now seeing recommended to other fellowships by the church's elders.

We have reason to believe that at least three more Messianic fellowships will invite us, as soon as the restrictions lift, to share with them also, the Biblical and faithful way to share the gospel message with the many lost souls around us.

It is a positive surprise for us, after having been gone from the area for almost 20 years, to see that the Arabic-speaking population is now integrating much more than ever before, into the general Israeli society, and we are currently working on establishing more productive co-operations with Biblically solid Arabic-speaking congregations, to reach as many Muslim and nominal-Christian souls to Christ in that language also.

Christmas was very quiet this year in Jerusalem, as movement restriction have suffocated all foreign tourism, and even local tourism was very slow.

My wife and I were sad to see and hear the silence at the Christian quarter of the Old City, and have found ourselves encouraging Christian Arabs and Messianic Jews who make their living from the tourism industry, that the Lord has not forsaken them, and that He is sovereign through it all.

While I am busy interacting with people and with producing Hebrew materials, my wife is keeping herself busy during the long lockdowns in translating theologically faithful materials into the Russian language which is also very widespread in Israel.

By God's grace we are also very active in helping to plant a new Messianic fellowship in an undisclosed location west of Jerusalem and are seeing God's grace and blessing in laying a solid foundation for it.

We could not have done anything if it was not for God's grace upon us, and the much support that He provides for us through the faithfulness of the Moriel community.

Please pray for our many needs, both in the spiritual, emotional and physical realms and prayerfully consider supporting our outreach ministry to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and the equally lost souls of the house of Ishmael, who are both devastated by the high rates of mortality in their communities.

Heaven's finest blessings upon you all.

K&L T.

MORIEL PHILIPPINES UPDATE
MORIEL PHILIPPINES UPDATE

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We thank the Lord for the situation changes, starting the 3rd week of November the Olongapo Local Government Unit lightened their health regulation. That's why from packed meals we're allowed to dine in to feed the children inside the building.

We thank the ladies from Cebu City- Ms. Angelica and Ms. Juevyn to share their knowledge in computer skills and English to teach the children online during this trying time of the pandemic situation. In the middle of December they start virtual class orientation while the children using the equipment are inside the computer center.

Thank you so much to Bro. Blair, to Bro. Jacob, to Bro. David and to all who materialized the computer learning and English learning program. May the Lord continue to bless the programs.

The children are familiar that every December season they are expecting to receive gifts from Moriel Give a Gift Program. Moriel's joyful desires always share happiness as to manifest God's goodness. While our community has no Covid-19 cases we conduct Moriel Give a Gift clothes, to have them receive new clothes this December and including the Happy meals.

Thank you so much to all of you. May Our Lord God continue take care of you and continue to bless each and everyone and the Ministry. Greatly Blessed New Year to all of you.

Sincerely, in Christ
Ptr. Paul



MORIEL SOUTH AFRICA UPDATE

Dear friends and Family, greetings in Jesus' name.

We would like to pray and ask God that he would bless and keep you safe for the new year. We pray 2021 would be a time of growth and anticipation of our Lord's return and that we all can confidently walk close to Him.

Needless to say we are living in very strange and challenging times all around the world. The pandemic which I thought would initially last for a few weeks has lingered on for nearly a year. During this time we have lost a few good friends throughout the world and I know a few personally who have become quite sick. Whatever your thoughts are on the course of this virus, the truth is those with evil motives have seen this as an opportunity to exert their power and gain for themselves vast riches. R570 billion at least has been stolen from the South African economy, money earmarked for covid relief and helping the poorest of the poor has admittedly been stolen or wasted. The hearts of men are truly laid bare. (Jeremiah 17:9)

During this time we have lost many basic freedoms. The right to assemble. The right to leave home. Education is being denied our children. Travel is banned. The elderly and sick neglected.

The body of Christ has also been affected. You may meet in small groups but no singing and the brotherly kiss or hug is totally frowned upon. I believe at this time the body is exposed as weak and frail and toothless. Is this the Lord refining us? It is a possibility.

Lyn and I returned to the UK for health issues and we are currently here in Wales. A return date for Lyn at least has been set but as soon as we bought the ticket the UK went into level 5 lockdown and South Africa into further restrictions and so we're waiting to hear what the travel outcome will be. PLEASE PRAY.

Meanwhile work at the mission continues. As you may know Carlos was involved in an accident and had wrote off the bakkie and the guys were without any transport for weeks. But PTL Alistair was able to replace it and brought it down from Joberg.

The health of the guys remains buoyant and they are in complete control of the farming side of things. The two youngest we see every day as we video their school lessons in preparation for their final year of education.

Former worker at the mission Abre, who many of you will know has been very sick. After breaking his leg the Dr's found something very sinister in his bone which refused to heal. He now awaits a bone marrow transplant. Please pray for his healing and for his wife and son Michelle and Chris.

Once again thank you one and all for your love and support. Financially it has been a strain with our prolonged stay in the UK however we have a saviour who will never let us down.

May Jesus bless you all

Dave and Lyn



MORIEL THAILAND UPDATE
MORIEL THAILAND UPDATE

We wish you all a Happy New Year in 2021 and fruitfulness for God's kingdom!

Bible Camp

In November the children we teach had a couple of weeks off of school, so we invited just the boys over for a Bible Camp. The girls still came on Saturdays, but the boys stayed for the whole two weeks. The first week we had 12 boys at our house. Four went home after the first week, being homesick, and two new boys came for the second week at Jallay's house.

At our house we read through Exodus 1-20 in Thai, usually a chapter before meals, learning the differences between the Old and New Testaments and the amazing history of how God redeemed Israel, which foreshadowed what Jesus accomplished for us. And we watched Superbook episodes of the Bible, sang worship songs, and also took the boys running/walking for 5K at a stadium each morning, and played soccer most evenings. These Bible Camps have been a great time for the boys to grow in the Lord. If they stayed home during these breaks, most of them would be on their cell phones, wasting away their days, instead of getting some good spiritual input from the Bible. Here are some pictures.



Women's Prison

I finished teaching through the book of Luke for the Christian group and began teaching from the book of Acts. In looking at chapters 1 and 2, among other things, I talked about the meaning of baptism, that we are not born-again via baptism, but that it's a symbol of what already took place in the heart of the person who puts their faith in Jesus when they repented of their sins, died to their old life, and received new life by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then after a person is born again, they want to show outwardly via baptism, what already took place inwardly by the Holy Spirit. Our faith is in Jesus, not in a ritual. Jallay and I also taught the newly arrived prisoners in October and November, but in December our meetings were cancelled because of Covid 19 concerns.

AMF Church Plant

Jallay's older brother's wife has become a Christian! They've attended regularly since beginning AMF. At first she wasn't a believer, but now is! She's from a hilltribe called Ba-Laung. After becoming a Christian, she prayed for and talked with her parents who live a few hours north of here. Amazingly they also have become Christians! Praise be to God! Please pray for her brother and sisters also who are not yet believers.

Two Burmese factory workers, who've been in Thailand for about a year now, a brother and a sister, continue to attend church almost every week even though they are not believers yet. I cannot communicate with them much, though I'm trying to pick up some Burmese phrases. They are very friendly people. All of the sermons are in both Thai and Burmese, so they are definitely getting some good Bible input. Jallay and his wife both speak Burmese. This brother and sister are not from hilltribes, but are Burmese. In Myanmar fewer of the Burmese people believe, as compared to the various hilltribes there. This is also the case in Thailand, comparing the Thais with the hilltribes of Thailand.

Outreach to the Long Necked Ba-Dong

Each Monday and Friday, Jallay and family continue to visit a group of folks from the Ba-Dong tribe. Some of the older women among them, still wear rings around their neck to make their necks longer (and more attractive apparently). Back in July and December, a friend of ours donated some money for food and asked me where there are people in need (as a result of the covid economic downfall). This group was working with elephants and showing the traditional ways of life of the long-neck people, for tourists, but with the decrease of tourists their livelihood was suffering. We went there to hand out groceries and shared the gospel. Some of them are from a Catholic background and others from a Buddhist background.

Jallay has continued going there, teaching them the true meaning of the gospel. None of them has come to church yet, but there's a regular group of people at both locations who come to study the Bible each Monday and Friday. Last week I printed out Luke, Acts, and Ephesians in their language. Only one person, a young man, is able to read these, but since they are written using Roman letters, some of the ladies who know a little English are trying to start reading these. Please pray for them truly to be born-again. Here are some pictures.



Street Preaching Against the Devil Idol

In October, we visited a city in the east of Thailand where there is a large Naga snake idol. Supposedly this is a serpent which covered the Buddha from rain while he was meditating towards “enlightenment.” It is interesting that in the Thai Bible, in Revelation 12:9, the Thai word used there is “paya-naak,”-- the “naak” part of that is a direct reference to Naga. The Thai Bible explicitly says that the Naga is the devil (there are at least six other Asian languages that use the word “Naga” in Revelation 12:9—we’ve talked with monks from various countries about this). But, in Buddhism this is a revered deity—often the most prominent feature at many Buddhist temples.

At the Mekhong river, I preached a very direct message against the Naga serpent-- Naga is a deceiver, an evil spirit—the devil. But, in contrast Jesus Christ loves us and died for our sins on the cross. Christianity is not a foreign religion. Jesus is the Creator of all people. Every nation and people group stems from Noah and his family, who survived the global flood about 4300 years ago. We should not put our faith in Naga, the deceiver, but rather in Jesus Christ who is God Almighty—holy and true, and who

loves people and is calling them to get right with him. Most of my listeners were sellers of lottery tickets, as well as people walking by, and a man playing his Thai equivalent of a banjo for money. Khae handed out tracts, and Micah also recited some Bible verses.

Most people received a tract and listened well, but one woman was adamant about her faith in the Naga. I told her clearly that Naga is the devil and will lead her to hell—the Bible says so, but Jesus is the Savior who loves us.

I’m certainly no John Wesley, but afterwards I recalled Wesley’s quote that he preferred if people either repented or were angry at his preaching, rather than just being indifferent. Thinking back now I’m glad I gave that message, and it did seem that many people were listening rather than just ignoring it. May God convict them of idolatry to repent and get right with the God who loves them.

After preaching about that, I also looked up the Hebrew word, in Genesis 3:1, which interestingly is not far removed from the Sanskrit “Naga” and Thai “Naak”—in Hebrew the word used there for serpent is “Nakash.” Here’s a picture of that idol with a man bowing down to it.



Also, here are some pictures of Da’s outreach in Mae Ai in her Lahu village there.



**Thank you for your prayers and support.
Peace in Christ, Scott, Khae, Micahberekiah, and
Isaiah.**

TIBET: PART TWO

Tibet: One of the Last Nations in Asia to Become Buddhist (Part 2 of 2)

By Scott Murray Noble (micahberekiah@gmail.com)

Atisa and the Number Six

A pivotal person in the second and most influential propagation of Buddhism in Tibet, was a monk named Atisa. He especially promoted the deity Avalokitesvara: “Although Buddhist teachings relating to Avalokitesvara had been introduced to Tibet by the eighth and ninth centuries, Atisa played a cardinal role in promoting this bodhisattva among Tibetans from the eleventh century on” (Kapstein, 58). Avalokitesvara is one of the central deities of Tibet and the one that the Dalai Lama and Karmapa claim to embody. The mantra of Avalokitesvara contains six syllables, so this became his nickname (“Six Syllables”). Since it is a mantra, it is repeated over and over again (6,6,6,6,6, etc.). Atisa brought the nation of Tibet under the power of deities which were often guarded by retinues of demons (including Avalokitesvara). It is interesting to note that the number of the beast in the Bible is 666 (Revelation 13:18) -- a number which, in indirect ways was prominent for the first emperor of China, and was also prominent for the prime promoter of Buddhism in Tibet-- Atisa.

Atisa promoted “Six Syllables”—the mantra of Avalokitesvara. His Kadam school used six primary texts, and his philosophy of attaining enlightenment was called the “six perfections,” the sixth of which was a realization of emptiness. “For Atisa, meditation on emptiness was the essential practice and theoretical reason was of only limited value in this respect” (Kapstein, 55). That is now the heritage of the Dalai Lama’s Geluk school: “The Bka’ gdams [Kadam], which evolved into the DGE LUG (GELUK) or Yellow Hat sect [that of the Dalai Lama], is the Tibetan sect with which the name of Atisha is most closely associated... Atisha’s works influenced all the later Tibetan Buddhist sects” (Sparham, 36).

“[Atisa]...is said to have been the second son of a royal line in eastern India and to have taken up the religious life after a vision of the Goddess Tara. He resorted first to a tantric master and was initiated into Hevajra’s cycle” (Snellgrove, 479). “[Atisa]...was also responsible for the importation of the cult of Tara, which was to become Tibet’s most widespread bodhisattva cult” (Robinson & Johnson, 277). What kind of a deity is Tara?

Tara

As in Catholicism with Mary, the popular Tibetan deity “Tara” is seen as a mother figure: “Her Mongolian name ‘Dara eke means ‘Tara mother,’ and she is called the ‘mother of all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.’ The faithful may appeal to her directly without the intermediary of a lama, which is not the case with the other deities of first

rank, and possibly accounts for her great popularity” (Getty, 105). However, as with the other Tibetan deities, Tara also has a “dark side”: “These ferocious forms of the goddess [Tara] were represented in the three colours: red, yellow, and blue” (Getty, 106). Tara was also said to be the female progenitor of the Tibetan people, while incarnating and procreating with a “divine monkey.” More on this later.

“Bhrikuti is an angry form of Tara, and has one head and four arms...” (Getty, 110). “Ekajata is a ferocious form of Tara, and, with Lhamo... is one of the most terrifying manifestations in the Mahayana pantheon... She has the third eye, is laughing horribly, her teeth are prominent, and her protruding tongue, according to the sadhana, is forked. Her eyes are red and round. Her hips are covered by a tiger-skin, and she wears a long garland of heads... Her ornaments are snakes” (Getty, 111). “The goddess Kurukulla is called by M. Foucher ‘the heart of Tara’... There are other still more ferocious manifestations of Kurukulla, with six and eight arms, represented dancing on corpses” (Getty, 112).

Like the other Tibetan deities which are similarly accompanied by demons or themselves have a demonic alter-ego, these are far from being safe refuges.

The Law of Inversion and Buddhist Monk Assassins

In instances when the emptiness philosophy is taken not just figuratively, but literally, it is called “the law of inversion”—where right is wrong, and wrong is right, etc. In looking at the various explanations from the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism of how the doctrine of emptiness in various schools led to a “beyond rules, concepts, duality and morality” type of philosophy, it is not surprising what this resulted in with those who took their philosophy to its logical conclusions.

Just as the prime minister of Ceylon was assassinated by a Buddhist monk in 1959, so also the king of Tibet was: “...this monarch was a devotee of the Bon religion who ruthlessly persecuted Buddhism until his assassination in 842 by the Buddhist monk Lhalung Pelgyi Dorje” (Kapstein, 22). By the way, in Thailand also the king of Ayutthaya was assassinated by a Buddhist monk (Phra Phimontham) in 1611, who took the throne and a name which translates to “the Just King” (Wyatt, 92).

The Tibetan king’s death led to a civil war, and, “A dark age descended on Tibet which lasted for 146 years” (Allen, 139). That civil war was just a precursor to the civil wars of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries in Tibet.

More than once Tibetan kings became anxious about the lack of morality in Tibetan Buddhism: “...for the Tibetan kings who actively sponsored the importation of Buddhism into their country-- and later for the ecclesiastical leaders who took over the central government-- the creation of ethical restraints on the more antisocial tendencies inherent in Tantra was a primary concern” (Robinson & Johnson,

272). “In the latter part of the tenth century, as various minor Tibetan kingdoms began to attain a measure of stability, the new kings came to regard this situation with concern, viewing Tantrism as detrimental to the moral fiber of their societies” (Robinson & Johnson, 272).

A Canon Based On Lies and Imagination

Regarding Avalokitesvara (a.k.a. Six Syllables), Kapstein writes, “Such was his popularity that Six Syllables was retrojected into the Tibetan past, to become the progenitor of the Tibetan people. According to the popular myth, Avalokitesvara, in the form of a divine monkey, coupled with an ogress (identified with goddess Tara), and from their union the Tibetans were born” (59). Even though Avalokitesvara was only introduced to Tibet at the earliest in the eighth century AD, this supposed deity is “retrojected” into the past as the ancestor of the Tibetan people (via a monkey and ogress union). This is a blatant forgery of history, not to mention one that insults the dignity of the Tibetan people.

Not only was Avalokitesvara “retrojected,” but many of the foundational texts were also retrojections, attempting to pass themselves off as really being from the historical Buddha: “Most tantras claim to have been spoken by Sakyamuni Buddha, or sometimes by other buddhas. This assertion is accepted by most Tibetan Buddhists but is generally rejected by contemporary historically oriented scholars, because no reliable evidence supports the appearance of tantras for at least a millennium after the death of Sakyamuni... There are no records from the Buddha’s time that suggest he gave teachings resembling developed Vajrayana. The tantras only began to appear in India toward the end of the seventh century—over a millennium after the Buddha’s passing—and new ones continued to be composed until the twelfth century, and possibly later” (Powers, 2008; 64-65).

“Very few of the old suttas were translated into Tibetan. So, although the Tibetan Buddhist canon, known as the Kanjur, is vast, its importance for evaluating the earlier canon is negligible” (Gombrich, 98). Unlike the Christian Bible, which is a single volume that can be held in one hand, “Tibetan Buddhist tradition divides its scriptures into two canonical collections: The Kanjur...and the Tenjur...The Kanjur came into existence at the beginning of the fourteenth century... it usually comprises 700-800 texts in just over 100 volumes.... [the Tenjur] contains over 3,500 texts...in over 200 volumes” (Gethin, 267-268). Despite claims to being teachings directly from the Buddha, “Modern scholarship, however, dates the production of these texts to a period over 1,000 years after the Buddha, and regards them as evolving as part of a wider Indian tantric movement” (Gethin, 268). “Very few Hinayana [small vehicle] Sutras made their way into the collection.... Buton did not include Nyingma Tantras in his collection of the canon” (Robinson & Johnson, 282).

Nagarjuna, Naga Snakes, and the Mahayana Movement

Writing about the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism, John Powers pin points a key similarity: “There are distinctive differences in their actual tantric practices, but despite these differences there are many points of commonality. This has been noted by the Dalai Lama, who states that the philosophical view of all orders is that of the Middle Way School of Nagarjuna, and in terms of practice all follow the program of Mahayana” (104). Nagarjuna lived during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, during a time when Mahayana Buddhism was still struggling to be accepted in India: “But we need not rely on general considerations of this kind to conclude that the Mahayana was in the second or third century a long way from having achieved any significant acceptance in Nagarjuna’s India. Our author—again, himself a proponent of the system or movement he is characterizing—repeatedly and explicitly declares that there is “opposition,” “aversion,” or “repugnance” (pratigha) to the Mahayana (vs. 97); it is the object of “ridicule” or “scorn” (vss. 67, 68, 69, 78, 79); it is despised (vss. 70, 89), verbally abused (vs. 80), not tolerated (vs. 85), and not accepted (vss. 85, 87). Its position would seem to be clear” (Schopen, 8).

The concept of “emptiness” (sunyata) was based on the concept of “no-self” (anatta), but Nagarjuna took this to an entirely new level by saying that not only does self not exist, but that all things are void of any intrinsic existence. Since emptiness is philosophically a self-defeating concept, there is no definite definition of it, but Nagarjuna is the classical man who attempted to define it. While saying that even the foundation is non-existent, how can anything or any philosophy be built thereon?

Nagarjuna, was from southern India and lived from about AD 150-250. In a book published by Oxford University Press, Alice Getty ironically begins her sentence with the words “in fact,” while referring to something that is very much legendary: “In fact, Buddhist legend claims that the sacred book, the Prajnaparamita [a.k.a. The Perfection of Wisdom Sutra], was put under the protection of the Nagas by Gautama Buddha himself until such a time as the human race should have acquired sufficient knowledge to understand it. In the first century of our era, the sage Nagarjuna claimed to have received from the Nagas the Prajnaparamita, on which he founded the Mahayana School” (153).

John Powers, too, confirms this legend that Nagarjuna received teachings from naga snakes-- in his book, “A Concise Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism” (33). The Pali Canon also claims the Buddha himself had interactions with Mucalinda, the king of the naga snakes. If this legend is true, then they had interactions with what the Bible clearly defines as a manifestation of the devil (Revelation 12:9 and Genesis 3). If this legend is false, then it is nothing more than a philosophy based on lies. Either way, it is something not to be trusted.

Also interesting is that the “Perfection of Wisdom Sutra” (the book supposedly given to Nagarjuna by Nagas)

teaches things that are contradictory to the earlier Pali Canon (written down c. 25 BC): “No longer a mortal human teacher, he generates bodies that pervade all of space... and perhaps most strikingly, he declares that he never truly dies or enters a final nirvana” (Powers, 34).

Was Nagarjuna a man who was taught by giant snakes?! How can we entrust ourselves to such teachings? What parents would leave their baby in the care of a cobra? Half of Nagarjuna’s name is of Hindu origin (Arjuna), and the other half comes from his interactions with these nagas. The fact that Tibetan Buddhism would base their philosophies on something claiming to stem from giant snakes, is a bad start. As we’ve seen, Tibetan Buddhism has ended up espousing all kinds of ahistorical deities, and their demonic entourages—not a good place to take refuge.

Nagarjuna’s philosophy of “emptiness” led him to the absurd conclusion that nirvana (final extinction) and samsara (the endless cycle of rebirths) are one and the same thing! Well, if there’s no difference between sweet and bitter, and no difference between good and evil, because those are all “empty concepts,” then he might be right. But, in the real world, there is a vast, enormous, gigantic, massive, colossal, mammoth, immense, stupendous, monumental, epic, titanic, king-sized difference between good and evil, and extinction vs. having endless lives. Why did the Tibetan people adopt such a self-defeating philosophy? Perhaps they were not so much interested in the implications of the philosophy as they were in the supposed powers they could achieve: “Their interest in Tantric powers, as opposed to Buddhist philosophy, played a major role in shaping Tibetan Buddhism” (Robinson & Johnson, 273).

Tibet as an “Anti-Israel”

The anti-Christ, prophesied in the Bible, will mimic aspects of Jesus’ life to deceive people. It is interesting that there are many parallels between Tibet and Israel, which seem to be Tibet mimicking and also contradicting the historically ideal nation of Israel.

1. Colonization

Officially Tibet is a part of China. It has been that since 1950. This is akin to Israel being occupied by the Roman Empire during the time of Jesus. Tibet is a kind of counterfeit Israel. How many Tibetans have lost their lives as a result of Chinese occupation is disputed. Some died during the initial invasion of 1950. Others died in jail cells or were executed. Some died during the famines of the “The Great Leap Forward,” from 1958 to 1962. Others died during China’s “Cultural Revolution” of 1966 to 1976. Still others died fighting the Chinese soldiers. All in all some say over one million Tibetans have died in these conflicts, while the Chinese government would say the number is much lower.

2. Exile and Diaspora

The Dalai Lama fled from Tibet in March of 1959 and has lived in exile ever since. As of 2020 this has been a

sixty-one year exile, not far removed from Israel’s seventy year exile in Babylon. Many other Tibetans have also been scattered all over the earth, like the diaspora of the Jews.

3. Twelve “Pillars”

Israel has twelve tribes, stemming from the 12 sons of Israel. Similarly, there were twelve foundational temples built in Tibet: “...these twelve temples are still regarded as the first Buddhist structures to be raised in Tibet...” (Allen, 90). But, by way of contrast, those twelve temples were seen as “tent pegs” as it were, to pin down an evil ogress (Srinmo), which was thought to be part of the landscape. That is an example of where animism intersected with Buddhism in Tibet. “The local demoness [Srinmo] is said to have resisted the introduction of the true teaching by the Buddhist missionaries from India with all means at her disposal, with weaponry and with magic, until she was ultimately defeated by the great king of law, Songtsen Gampo ([AD] 617-650)... ‘In order to keep the limbs of the defeated demoness under control, twelve nails of immobility were hammered into her’ (Stein, 1993, p.34). A Buddhist temple was raised at the location of each of these twelve nailings” (Trimondi, Part II, chapter 2, 229). It was also during Songtsen Gampo’s reign that “twelve ancient petty kingdoms” were united under “one central authority” (Allen, 124).

Here, instead of Jesus willingly being nailed to the cross on our behalf, and rising from the dead, this demoness is forced into submission as a sacrifice for the foundation of Buddhism in Tibet and supposedly remains there. Some of those temples were destroyed during the Chinese takeover, but later rebuilt. Israel by contrast, was portrayed not as a woman being brought into bondage, but a woman given liberty and redemption (Ezekiel 23).

4. The High Priest Mediator

Israel had a high priest who was the mediator between man and God. Tibet has four main schools of Buddhism, but among those the man that is most recognized, and who led the Tibetan government from 1951-1959 was and is the Dalai Lama, who is like a high priest for his nation. “From the time of the fifth Dalai Lama... the Dalai Lama has acted as Tibetan head of state” (Gethin, 272). This is in contrast to Israel where kings may not be priests and priests may not be kings, except in the case of the Messiah.

5. Absolutes Voided

Instead of an absolute standard, like the commands of God that Israel had, in Tibet the standard of “emptiness” was proclaimed, undermining any absolute standard of right or wrong.

6. High Places

“Tibet is the highest region on Earth, with an average elevation of 5,000 m (16,000 ft)” (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tibet>). During Israel’s wayward years they also placed great emphasis on having “high places” to worship, which was an outward show to impress, but was not something that God had decreed.

7. Future Buddhocracy Kingdom Prophesied

Just as Israel was a theocracy, a nation led and directed by God, so Tibet seeks to be a Buddhocracy under the leadership of the ADI Buddha according to the Kalakakra prophecies. "While the Hinayana preserves almost intact the 'primitive Buddhism' as we have sketched it above, the Mahayana adds thereto several innovations which completely change the meaning of the old faith. Of these innovations the following are the chief: (1) The recognition of a supreme God...and the worship of the divinities. These two articles were borrowed from the Brahmans, and were unknown to primitive Buddhism, in which the gods... were far below the Buddhas who were free of the Samsara [cycle of rebirths] and living in a very much higher world, that of Nirvana. The Mahayanists, on the other hand, relegated the Buddhas to the background, or rather made of them a sort of special divinity" (Getty, xxvi-xxvii).

Unlike the God of the Bible, Adi Buddha has a spouse: "His [Adi Buddha's] consort is Adi-Dharma (Adi-Prajna)" (Getty, 3). In the Geluk, Sakya, and Kagyu schools of Tibetan Buddhism, Adi Buddha is also called Vajradhara. In the Nyingma school Adi Buddha is called Samantabhadra. In China, Vairocana is supposed to be a reflection of the character of Adi Buddha, and a statue of Vairocana in China is currently the tallest statue in the world, at 128 meters tall.

Israel had a priesthood and prophetic purposes. A future righteous millennium and eternal kingdom is prophesied in the Bible. Tibet also claims to have priests (monks) and prophetic purposes. In the Kalachakra Tantra prophecies are given of Tibet's destiny. These also are counterfeit. Matthew Kapstein writes, "In the mysterious land of Shambala, somewhere in the north, the kings preserve the Tantra of the Wheel of Time and prepare for world conquest" (97). Some may ask, "world conquest' from peace-loving Tibetan Buddhists?" So it is prophesied, but not from a reliable source. The Tantra of the Wheel of Time is also known as the Kalachakra Tantra. The Bible's perfect prophetic track record, points to a future millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

8. Burial Methods

Matthew Kapstein writes, "Though interment and burial in rivers were known, the favored means of disposal in Tibet were cremation and 'oblation for the birds (jator),' usually called 'sky burial' in English, a euphemism for the dismemberment of the corpse at a designated charnel ground, where the remains are fed to vultures. It is not clear when this custom, which has a marked affinity with burial by exposure as practiced in the Zoroastrian religion, first became widespread in Tibet, but it has certainly been the preferred means in recent centuries" (100-101). In the Bible, being eaten by birds after dying is considered to be a curse and a judgment (Genesis 40:19; I Samuel 17:44; I Kings 14:11; Ezekiel 39, and Revelation 19).

Six Refuges

"It is stated throughout Tibetan meditation literature that one cannot successfully follow the path of tantra without a guru" (Powers, 91). By "tantra," Tibetan Buddhism is meant. Traditionally Buddhism has three refuges: The Buddha, the Dharma (the doctrines), and the Sangha (the community of monks). These three traditional refuges were added to, making a total of six refuges: "The deities who were the focus of these rituals fell into three classes, called the Three Basic Ones, which for Tibetan Buddhism superseded the Triple Gem [the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha] in immediate importance. The three classes were members of one's lama lineage (including one's personal lama); high Tantric patron deities subsumed under the five families of Buddhas (see Section 6.3.2); and dakinis..." (Robinson & Johnson, 293-294). These dakinis were a leftover from Hinduism. In Hinduism, they carried the meaning of being "...a type of flesh-eating female deity that appears in the retinue of Kali" (Dalton, 192). Those are refuges of danger.

With "emptiness" as a foundation, all of these refuges are in vain. Bill Cooper in the book "The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis," poignantly says, "Abandoning the Truth, what else can they write but nonsense?" The Bible teaches that truth is not just a concept, but a Person: "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). We need to be in a right relationship with Jesus-- by reading the Word of God, the Bible, to get to know Him-- not redefining Him, or seeking refuge elsewhere.

Hinduism and Syncretism

India was the source of most of the texts and teachers of Tantric Buddhism in Tibet, which with its own characteristics then became Tibetan or Vajrayana Buddhism. Mixed with this Indian influence was an underlying influence from Hinduism both in concepts used and deities worshipped. This kind of influence can be seen in the Pali Canon and in Theravada countries as well. Hindu influence can be seen in the Kalachakra Tantra also, which is especially used by the Geluk school:

"...the Kalachakra Tantra appears to remain more closely attached to recognizable Hindu terminology than other tantras. One may note that the use of the term 'lord of creation' (prajapati) and the related term 'created nature'(prajabhava) might appear slightly awkward in a Buddhist context where all notion of a creating divinity and created beings is anathema, but such is inevitably the connotation of such terms from Vedic times onward, and only deliberate reinterpretation can make them suitable for Buddhist ways of thought. But we have already noted above that Supreme Yoga Tantras are not overconcerned with this problem" (Snellgrove 264).

"On the external level, Buddhism as a whole was encountering a host of new theistic religious movements in

its expanding environment. The cult of Vishnu was developing in India, while Hellenistic and Zoroastrian savior cults were spreading into Gandhara in northwestern India and along the major trade routes in central Asia at the same time that Buddhist missionaries were active in these areas. No one knows for sure how and why Buddhism picked up cultic and doctrinal elements from these external sources. Buddhists may have been reacting to external criticisms that they had been orphaned by a dead god who was no longer in a position to offer salvation” (Robinson & Johnson, 82-83).

Conclusion

Charles Allen has noted, as many others have, how different Tibetan Buddhism is from early Buddhism: “So central is Tibet to the West’s image of Buddhism that it is sometimes difficult to remember that the tantric Buddhism of Tibet is about as far removed from mainstream Buddhism as is possible, as well as being a form of Buddhism which only took shape a millennium and more after the death of its founder, Siddhartha Gautama Shakyamuni” (116).

Tibet came late on the scene in adopting Buddhism, and the form of Buddhism it adopted was very much in keeping with its former Shamanistic traditions. The foundation of the philosophy it adopted (“emptiness”) was of Indian origin, as were many of the ahistorical deities. Deception is cruel. Instead of finding freedom through Jesus Christ, the people of Tibet were brought into bondage by means of false teachers and demonic beings. Any claims that “emptiness” applies to everything is without ultimate authority, and any claims that “emptiness” applies to anything at all, is also without ultimate authority. It is a philosophy which undermines its own foundation, and which has no absolutes to appeal to. Pray for the people of Tibet to be set free by the truth, which in Jesus Christ is absolute:

“I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins” (John 8:24).

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32).

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’ (John 14:6).

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